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GISELA	F. Mosca	4,260	12th Oct. 1898.

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LAOS	6,000	Flandin	25th Oct. 1898.

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NOTICES.

NOTICE.

A MEETING of the FRIENDS and ADMIRERS of the late SIR JAMSETJEE JEJEEBHOY, BART., C.S.I., will be held in the TOWN HALL, at 5-15 P.M., on FRIDAY, the 26th August, 1898, to consider the steps to be taken to perpetuate his memory.

HIS EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR has kindly consented to preside.

DINSHAW MANOCKJEE PETIT.

BYCULLA CLUB.

THE HALF-YEARLY GENERAL MEETING of the Members of the Byculla Club, will be held at the Club House, on SATURDAY, the 27th August, at 9-30 P.M.

W. WEBB,
Hony. Secretary.

Bombay, 27th July, 1898.

NOTICE.

THE POWER of ATTORNEY granted by us to Mr. HAMILTON GEORGE HARRIS, has from THIS DAY been CANCELLED.

BERTIE-SMITH & Co.

Bombay, 20th August, 1898.

NOTICE.

IN ADDITION to our Girgaum Veterinary Stables, we have opened a Commission and Livery Stable at 223, Bellasis Road, Byculla, the premises lately occupied by Messrs. Ahmed Mahomed Mishari and Co.

R. SCOTT & Co., M.R.C.V.S.

Girgaum and Byculla, 1st August, 1898.

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PAID UP CAPIAL	"	9,000,000
RESERVE FUND	"	6,660,000

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PAID-UP CAPITAL	£500,000
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25	,, 11 0 8
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35	,, 13 12 0
40	,, 15 10 0

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W. E. HILL, Acting Secretary.

Bombay.

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BOMBAY.

TO-DAY.

Sun rises, 5h. 43m. Sun sets, 6h. 32m. High water, 2-39m., 2-24a. Low water, 8-9m., 8-34a.
Music at the Yacht Club 5-45 p.m.

FALL OFF A ROOF.—Regina DeSouza, a Goanese woman, aged sixty years, was on Saturday last removed to the Goculdas Tejpal Hospital, suffering from a fractured rib, caused by her having accidentally fallen off the roof of her house at Khandawadi. She is now being treated in the hospital.

A BOMBAY STUDENT.—Master Alexander Holmes King, late of the Bombay Scottish (John Connon) School, who passed the Matriculation examination of the Bombay University, has also succeeded in passing in England the last Matriculation examination of the London University.

THE MUNICIPAL VACANCY.—Mr. Manmohandass Ramji, the chairman of the Native Piece Goods Association, is one of the candidates for the vacancy in the Municipal Corporation caused by the death of Dr. K. N. Bahadurji. Mr. Manmohandass is one of the large mill-owners of the city and a Justice of the Peace.

BURGLARY AT WORLEE.—Sumna Sooroop, a Marwari, having his place of business at Worlee, has reported to the police that some time during Saturday night his shop was broken into, an entrance having been effected through an open window over the shop, and gold and silver ornaments and cash of the aggregate value of Rs. 180 were stolen from a cupboard.

A PARSI GIRL ROBBED OF HER ORNAMENT.—Cursetji Dorabshah, a Parsi, residing at Khetwady Main Road, has reported to the police that his daughter, named Dhunbai, aged nine years, was playing on the road in front of the house on Saturday last, when a Parsi, aged about twenty-five years' enticed her into a lane, and there robbed her of a gold neck ornament of the value of Rs. 120 and absconded.

THE LATE DR. BAHADURJI.—The following resolution was passed at a meeting of the Friendly Union Debating Society, held on Sunday:—That this meeting records, with deep regret, the irreparable loss sustained by the country in general and the Zoroastrian community in particular by the untimely death of Dr. K. N. Bahadurji; that this meeting by in consequence adjourned out of respect for the memory of the deceased, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to his family.

RESCUED FROM DROWNING.—On Sunday, midnight a Purdesi named Shivbanak Wiswari, while under the influence of liquor, accidentally fell off the wharf at No. 10 berth into the Victoria Dock. The fourth Officer of the P. and O. Company's steam ship Clyde, noticing the Purdesi sinking, jumped over-board, tied a rope round the sinking man, and brought him ashore in a state of collapse. The man was attended to by the medical officer on board the steam ship Caledonia, and was afterwards removed to the Goculdas Tejpal Hospital.

RUN OVER BY A TRAM-CAR.—Bhagoo, a Hindu girl, aged four years, residing with her parents at Shaik Memon Street, while attempting to run across Nagdevi Street to get away from a dog that had run after her, she was accidentally knocked down by a passing tram-car. The driver immediately put on the brake, but before he could succeed in bringing the car to a standstill, the front offwheel passed over the calf of her right leg, inflicting a wound of about four inches long. The child was removed to the Goculdas Tejpal Hospital, where she is being treated.

DESTRUCTION OF A HUT.—About 10 o'clock on Sunday night a fire broke out in a temporary shed erected for the purpose of stabling cattle at Parel Bhoiwada Cross Lane, and before anything could be done, the shed was completely destroyed. There were about half dozen cattle in the shed at the time of the outbreak, and they were all saved, but not before a few of the animals were slightly burnt. The Parel manual appeared on the spot and extinguished the flames. The fire was said to have been caused by the upsetting of a kerosine oil lamp. The damage is estimated at Rs. 85.

REPORTED BURGLARY AT WITHALWADY.—Oomerchund Tulukerund, a Bania, residing on the second floor of a house at Withalwady, reported to the police on Sunday that during the temporary absence of his daughter-in-law, from home on the first floor of the same house, her room was broken into by removal the lock on the door and gold and silver ornaments valued at Rs 327, were stolen from a box. On the police going to the place, complainant objected to the making any inquiry, and refused to sign a complaint, hence the police have been unable to take any action in the matter.

ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF GANJA.—At the Esplanade Police Court, yesterday, before Mr. P. H. Dastur, Acting Second Presidency Magistrate, Inspector Jolliffe charged Nama Luhay a Sheikna cultivator of Nagotna, a village in the district of Ratnagiri, with importing 70 tolas of *ganja*, of the value of Rs. 17-8 and with being in the possession of the same without obtaining a license from the Collector of Customs. The accused was arrested on Sunday at Mody Bay by an Abkari sub-inspector and placed before Inspector Jolliffe. The accused was convicted and fined Rs. 20 or in default sentenced to undergo ten days' imprisonment.

DAMAUN.—On Thursday and Friday last over Damaun showed a clean mortality bill, while it did the same on the corresponding dates of the last year At Varkoond, there were two deaths from plague on Wednesday the 17th instant, and two on the 18th instant. There are loud complaints from people who come to Damaun either from Bombay or Surat of being unnecessarily and most inconveniently detained for hours together in a dharamshala at Vapi by the British cordon authorities being permitted to enter Damaun territory. It is hoped that the chief plague authority, Damaun Frontier will make the necessary enquiries.

ALLEGED THEFT OF STAMPS.—At the Esplanade Police Court, yesterday, before Mr. P. H. Dastur, Acting Second Presidency Magistrate, the case in which Jamsekji Burjorji Mehta, a dealer in old used stamps, charged his servant, Haji Noor Mahomed, with theft of 1,025 old used and defaced stamps, of the collective value of Rs. 800, was called on for further hearing. Mr. Hemming, solicitor, who defended the accused, applied for the postponement of the case to enable him to move the High Court for the transfer of the case under section 523 of the Criminal Procedure Code. The magistrate postponed further hearing to 31st instant.

THE BAND AT THE BOMBAY YACHT CLUB.—The Band of the 21st Bombay Infantry will play the following programme of music under the direction of Mr. A. Mallandaine Bandmaster commencing at 5-45 p.m. (weather permitting) :—

March	Lynwood ..... March
Scenes at an Europ-nion Solo	L'asedia di Arbni ... Verdi
Reminiscences of	Sullivan ..... Winterbottom
Valse	Toreator ..... Royle
Selection	Gilp van Wieprecht ..... Pinsuette
Galop	Paltergeister ..... Faust

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

POONA PINJRAPOL.—The following further subscriptions received towards the Poona Pinjrapol :—Amount previously published Rs. 9,392. Shet Rowjee Sakalchand, Poona, Rs. 51; Budmall Panalal of Karmala Rs. 9; Nowrojee Jamsedjee Maneckjee, Bombay, Rs. 10; Manockchand Motichand, Borsad Rs. 10; Nanchand Motichand, Dound 5; Hiralal Maganlal, Dound, Rs. 12 Maruteo Balkrisna Karad, Rs. 2; Balwantrar Tatyajee Tam, Rs. 1; the Mahajans of Choroli, Rs. 6-12, Mr. Pestonjee Limjeebhoy, Poona, Rs. 5, Shet Sakalchand Gontamchand, Rs. 2; Nanchand Moolchand, Rs. 8; Umarchand Bhaeechand, Rs. 8-10; Maganlal Bulakidas, Rs. 10; Gopaldas Govardhandas, Rs. 10; Thakkar Ranchoddas Visanjee, Bombay Rs. 10; Kestavraj Manshankar Junagad, Rs. 1; Zoroastrian Lady, Rs. 5; total Rs. 1,085-0-1.

THEFT BY A SERVANT.—At the Esplanade Police Court, yesterday, before Mr. P. H. Dastur, Acting Second Presidency Magistrate, Inspector Sloane charged Koober Narotum, aged 18 years, and Magan Narayan, aged 22 years, with committing theft of currency notes and cash of the collective value of Rs. 3,874 belonging to their master, Manscokh Gokal a cloth merchant in Sheik Memon Street. Mr. Velinkar, pleader, prosecuted. It appeared from the evidence that the first accused was employed by the complainant as his cook on a monthly salary of Rs. 4 and the second servi him as a domestic servant, his wages being nearly the same. They were left in charge of the premises during the absence of the complainant on Friday night. Availing themselves of the opportunity, they fitted in a false key to a wooden box which contained the key of their master's safe and abstracted the property from the safe. They then went to the house at Koombharwada of one Ishwar, formerly a cook in the service of the complainant and deposited the property with him for safe custody. The first accused absconded to Parel and remained in hiding in the shop of a milkman named Magan Hurjiwan, who was his relation. The second accused returned to his master's place, where he was arrested by Inspector Sooltanali. The first accused was subsequently arrested at Parel. The stolen property was recovered from Ishwar. The magistrate convicted the accused and sentenced each to one year's rigorous imprisonment.

Powell's Balsam of Aniseed.—Coughs.—Asthma.
Powell's Balsam of Aniseed.—Coughs.—Bronchitis.
Powell's Balsam of Aniseed.—Coughs.—Lung Troubles.
Powell's Balsam of Aniseed.—Coughs.—Night Coughs.
Powell's Balsam of Aniseed.—Coughs.—Influenza.
Powell's Balsam of Aniseed.—Coughs.—Sure Remedy.
Powell's Balsam of Aniseed.—Coughs.—Safe and Reliable.
Trade Mark—Lion, Net, and Mouse.
Established 1824. Sold by Chemists throughout the world. In bottles, 1s, 1 1-2d. and upwards.

HIGH COURT.—ORIGINAL SIDE.

(Before the Hon. Mr. JUSTICE B. TYABJEE.)

DISPUTED TRANSACTIONS BETWEEN A BOOKMAKER AND HIS FRIEND.

ELLEN ATKINS VS. EDWARD C. O'BRIEN.

THE plaintiff, a widow, who formerly kept a boarding house at Byculla, where the defendant boarded and lodged for about six years, prayed judgment for the sum of Rs. 3,219-1-0 and interest on Rs. 2,500 at the rate of 18 per cent. per annum from 14th June 1898 till judgment. Mr. Raikes, instructed by Messrs. Crawford, Brown and Co., appeared for the plaintiff; and Mr. Kirkpatrick, instructed by Messrs. Smetham, Bland and Noble appeared for the defendant.

Mr. Raikes, continuing his remarks, reiterated that the book produced by Mr. O'Brien, purporting to show Mr. Atkins' account, was not a genuine book from the fact that some eight pages out of it had been abstracted out of the first sixteen pages. That was conclusively shown by the stitching of the book, which was made up of three component parts, the strings of which were in some of them loose, and in others tight. The fact was further corroborated by the alterations in the pages from nine to ourteen. Further, the figures were carefully scratched over with a knife. The learned counsel argued that the book produced appeared to have been written up from another book or books, and an attempt had been made to conceal Mrs. Atkins' real account by altering the figures from pages fourteen to sixteen. Mr. O'Brien had concealed the true accountfrom the obvious reason that it contained and accoount of the pony Mulberry, and which, if produced, would prove most ruinous to Mr. O'Brien.

His Lordship : Why ?

Mr. Raikes said it was a rule of racing that if a pony beltonging to ano her was to run under a false name it become disqualified. The case was that the famous pony Mulberry r ally belonged to Mr. O'Brien and that Captain Firman had been running in his own name. With regard to the loan to Captain Firman, Mr. O'Brien's story that it was his own money was wholly false, as no mention was made of the police in the letters written by Captain Firman, to Mrs. Atkins, though reference was made in the letters to the bill of sale.

His Lordship. And what has become of the bill of sale ?

Mr. Raikes : It was returned to Captain Firman when the money was paid.

His Lordship : And where is the evidence to that effect ?

Mr. Raikes : Mrs. Atkins had stated that she never considered the bill of sale as real security, as she was not a racing wom an and knew nothing of horse flesh. The learned counsel, continuing, said that the policy referred to had reference to some other transaction, namely, that relating to Mulberry, which was Mr. O'Brien's property. If the policy was a security for the loan, Mr. O'Brien should have returned the policy along with the bill of sale and the bond.

His Lordship : And how do the other side account for retaining the policy ?

Mr. Kirkpatrick said the policy had lapsed, as the premia were not paid.

Mr. Raikes, continuing, said some stress had been laid on the word of Mr. O'Brien, but the learned counsel could say that Mr. O'Brien's word was not to be belived, as he had made most reckless and false statements all along. The learned counsel next refrred at some length character of Mr. O'Brien, and to the letter writren by him from Patiala, in which he spoke of "a big bribe and plenty of nerve" and I have a big stable running." Those letters, Mr. Raikes said, reveled a most disgraceful confession cheating on the part of Mr. O'Brien. He had proved himself a frauduient cheat, and as such was capible of making any kind of false claim.

Mr. O'Brien and Mrs. Atkins were one after the other recalled and examined by his Lordship on certain doubtful points.

Mr. Kirkpatrick made a few remarks and applied for a commission to England for the examination of Captain Firman on an important pont, as he thought, to the interest of his client.

His Lordship declined to grant a commission, and took time to consider his decision on the whole case.

(Before the Hon'ble Mr. JUSTICE STRACHEY.)

A RULE FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT.

HIRALAL JAMNADAS VS. GOVERDHANDAS SITARAM AND OTHERS.

HIS Lordship delivered judgement in the case. On the application of Bhagwan Das Sitaram, one of the defendants in this case, a rule *nisi* was issued for contempt of court on the 18th April last, calling upon Mr. L. A. Watkins, the receiver appointed in the suit, and Mr. James Peace, his attorney, to show cause why writs should not issue against them for contempt of court in not obeying the judge's order, made on the 10th April 1895, to the effect that the receiver should deposit the n tt proceeds of sale, when realised, in the Bank of Bombay, and that the amount of such deposit should be held subject to further orders of the court. Mr. Kirkpatrick, instructed by Mr. Peace, who was present in court, appeared to show cause against the rule ; Mr. Watkins appeared in person ; while the Hon. Mr. Lang, instructed by Messrs. Mansookhlal Hamodnr, and Jamsedji, appeared to support the rule on behalf of the defendant Mr. Justice Strachey., in delivering his decision, said : That it was a admitted that the net proceeds of the sale, amounting to over Rs. 10,000, were realised by Mr. Watkins and received by Mr. Peace, but that no part of them was deposited in the Bank of Bombay, except a sum of Rs. 3,555, which was deposited in 1897, about a year after the realisation. The question was whether Mr. Watkins and Mr. Peace were guilty of contempt of court by disobedience of the order. Mr. Watkins and Mr. Peace were guilty of e serious contempt of court, which was aggravated by the responsible positions of trust which they occupied. Mr. Watkins had been for many years a deputy registrar of the High Court. Mr Peace, as solicitor on the rolls of the court, was also one of its officers. The only doubt which his Lordship felt was whether he ought not to commit, them to prison for the disobedience and contempt of which they had been proven guilty. The Advocate-General, however, did not ask for an immediate committal, and he had come with some hesitation to the conclusion that he might properly give them a "locus penitentia" an opportunity of purging their contempt by replacing with interest the monies which they had misapplied. If they did not avail themselves of this opportunity, they would have to go to prison. Of the total net sale proceeds, amounting to Rs. 11,455, he would treat as already paid into court the Rs. 3,555 which was deposited in the Bank of Bombay in 1897. The balance of Rs. 7,900 must be paid into court with interest. The rule was made absolute. The writs of attachment would not be issued by the prothonotary until the 16th October, 1898, then to issue if Mr. Watkins and Mr. Peace should not have paid into court the sum of Rs. 7,900 with interest at 6 per cent per annum on Rs. 3,100 from the 18th December 1895; and on Rs. 4,800 from the 18th February 1896, until payments if such payment was made, then the writs were not to issue. As regards the cost of the rule, Mr. Watkins and Mr. Peace must pay the costs of the applicant, and each must pay his own costs.

INDIAN CROP PROSPECTS.

MADRAS COTTON.

THE report on the first sowings of Madras cotton reads as under :—The area reported to have been sown with cotton in Government villages up to the end of July this year, though more than 25 per cent. greater than last year, was 41 per cent. less than the average. The decrease is shown in those districts where Salems, and Northerns and Westerns are produced ; Kistna showing a large excess over the average. The crop is almost everywhere in need of rain—in the absence of which sowing are much retarded.

MADRAS GINGELLY.

The Early Gingelly Crop in Madras is thus reported upon :—The total area reported to have been sown with this crop in Government villages up to the end of July is 52,500 acres or nearly 17 per cent. less than last year and about 25 per cent, less thau the average of previous years. The decrease is spread over all Districts, except Chingleput, where there has been an increase of 9,600 acres or nearly 30 per cent, as compared with the average. This increase was due to the fall of opportune showers at the time preferred for sowing the crop, but subsequent failure of the rains has left it in indifferent condition. This condition extends over most Districts except those in the Circars, and the crop is suffering from drought generally.

N. W. P. COTTON.

The First forecast of Cotton crop of 1898, in the N. W. P. and Oudh reads :—The first general falls of rain occurred during the second week of June. After that, though fa rly normal monsoon conditions declar ed themselves, the falls were light, and in some districts hot west winds blew till nearly the close of the month. In the first week of July too the rainfall was light ; but since then it has been abundant and exceedingly well distributed. Except in Bundelkhand, where it was timely and sufficient, rain began rather late in the chief cotton-growing tracts of the Doab and Rohilkhand and has been below the normal. Sowings were therefore restricted and the area under cotton is estimated at about 15 per cent. less than the normal area. Seed is reported to have germinated freely ; but the backwardness of the crop has generally retarded weeding operations. Dry weather is now wanted to improve the prospects of the crop after the present week of incessant rain This relates to condition up to the 10th of August.

N. W. P. TIL.

The first forecast of the North Western Provinces and Oud til crop of 1898 is as under ;—The rains as remarked in the first forecast of the cotton crop havebeen timely and sufficient for agricultural purposes in Bundelkhand and eastern sub-montane districts, in which tracts til is chiefly sown alone Sowings which were continued in July seem to have been on a somewhat extended scale and the area is expected to exceed the average. Seed is reported to have germinated well ; the weeding to have been active ; and the crop to be flourishing. This relates to condition up to the 10th of August.

DAMAUN NOTES.

CRIMINAL COURT PROCEEDINGS.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

DAMAUN, AUGUST 20.

THE following is the substance of the answer filed by the Assistant Judge, Mr. F. Moniz, to the petition of suspicion filed against him by the accused, Mr. Manoel Sebastian Vas :—Whereas the petitioner states that for five years profound enmity has existed between me and him, as is publicly known in the district, and that, notwithstanding that we were in terms of perfect amity for a long time before the past five years, this enmity had gone so far that we never in public or in private speak with each other, I answer that, according to Article 294 of the Criminal Code, "suspicion" must be stated in the form specified in that article, that is, the charge must not be general or ambiguous, and that there cannot be a vague allusion to profound enmity, but the cause, the motive, the time and the circumstances must be mentioned ; that it is a gratuitous insinuation, and it is impossible for one to refute or repel it, and under these circumstances this charge is null and void, as it is not in harmony with the code. That whatever may be the individual opinions of law commentators, the law must be interpreted as law is. To come to a right conclusion, logic requires that the premises must be stated. That severance of amity does not mean enmity. I have on no occasion done anything or practised a malevolent act against the petitioner to establish enmity, and against the insinuation of enmity, I solemnly and energetically protest. It is true that in an investigation ordered to be made by His Excellency the Governor-General of Portuguese India in 1893 into Municipal matters, while the petitioner was the President of the Municipal Corporation, I gave evidence which did not go much in favor of the petitioner, who was not present during the whole time the investigation was going on, as he was absent from Damaun for about three months. That the first time the petitioner thereafter attended the Corporation meeting was on the 30th January 1894, when he complimented the Corporation upon the result of the investigation, which was not unfavourable to the Municipality, and he passed a resolution thanking the members of the Corporation other than myself for having come out triumphantly. That about the month of April 1894, when Municipal elections were to take place, I was President of the Ratepayers' Committee for taking votes at Lower Daisaun. The result of the elections was that the petitioner was thrown out of the Corporation. It is the duty of society to seclude from their company, for the preservation of its moral tone, a man who has practised an infamous act, whatever it may be, as certainly theft is, and until the man has cleared his character, it is undoubtedly more the duty of those who would likely be made the judges of this man to abstain from keeping in connection with him until his innocence is proved. The country would be simply scandalous and highly prejudicial to the exercise of fair justice. The present proceedings were filed in 1894 while I was already an Assistant Judge, and, according to my functions, I could not be on terms of amity or enmity with a person a affair whom charges were pending, as I could be called at any time to act as a Judge in the case. No Judge with conscience or rectitude of principles, be he a First or Second Assistant Judge, should hold relations of friendship with accused, whom he may probably have to judge, be whatever the influence and position of the accused in our limited society. In my capacity of Second and First Assistant Judge I have made various orders in this case, and while the proceedings were going on, I preserved my spirit above the influences that could be exercised on me, even in a limited degree, from passion or prevention against any of the accused, and thereby bemeaning the prestige of the authority that was confided to my solicitude by my superiors. I have made very important orders in the present case ; one was to annul a part of the proceedings, as will appear by the records of the case. The petitioner knew that I made various orders in this case and intervened, and as he did not within five days of my first intervention file a petition of suspicion under Article 301 of the Criminal Code, he could not do so now. I was appointed and sworn in as Second Assistant Judge in 1889 and First Assistant in 1895, and I had off and on to officiate in that capacity. I have always kept my conscience tranquil and never favored accusers or acoused. I religiously exercised my functions, notwithstanding all the sacrifices and long hours, with the most rigiad impartiality, without giving cause to any person to pitch in my face that I judged one with partiality or another with enmity. The people of Damaun, that is, the honest and impartial, will speak for themselves why my opponents have did not succeed in getting what they wanted. Judges are slaves of law, and the proofs in the case are the lights and guides of those who wish to be impartial Judges. I know the full and graver responsibility of the functions which I have to fulfil. The charge against one is, both by law and on facts, unsustainable and must be dismissed.

A petition of suspicion is heard before a Judge, and two arbitrators, one to be appointed by the petitioner and the other by the respondent. The Assistant Judge has nominated Captain Lindorpho Pinto Barbosa, the Administrator of the Nagder Haveli District, as the Arbitrator on his behalf, and is going to call twelve respectable witnesses on his behalf.

Anent the article Extraordinary Procedure under the Portuguese Criminal Law appearing in the issue of the 12th instant, it may mentioned that Judge Castro's minute states that it was about a year ago that while the Judge, who had recently arrived in Damaun and was stopping with the Conservador, Mr. Reis, was dining with Mr. Reis, that Engineer Mr. Pixote arrived on a visit and opened a conversation, telling a Judge that he would have to try very important cases, one of which was the jungle theft case; that while this conversation was proceeding Mr. Lobo, the Clerk of the Court, made his appearance on court business to take the Judge's signature to certain orders, when Mr. Pixote put him a question, and in answer to which he stated that there was no inspection of the spots in the jungle whence timber was alleged to have been stolen, though he, as the Clerk of the Crown, was made to state on records that there was &c. Judge Castro received a petition on the 7th instant on behalf of the accused to substitute the names of three new witneses, one of which was that of Judge Castro himself, in lien of three witnesses mentioned in the list, who had since died stating that the Judge was required to depose what Lobo had stated before him. As under Article 292, para 4 of of the Portuguese Criminal Code Judge cannot officiate in any cause wherein he has deposed or has to depose as a witness Judge Castro wrote his minute as mentioned in the issue of the 13th instant. He may be, *en passant*, mentioned that under Article 925 of Novissima Reforma Judiciaria Crown Clerks can never be called as witnesses in any case.

HIGH COURT.—AUGUST 23.

Before the Hon'ble Mr. Justice CANDY.

Suits for hearing and final disposal.

Postponed Long Causes.

257-93—Maganlal and R—Manockchund Kapurchand vs Rachappa Virappa Karajgy and others—Dikshit and D and K J Mantri part heard.

652-97—Shamrao P—Bai Jadaw and another vs Hargovandas Pranjeovandas and others—Ardesir H and D

Before the Hon'ble Mr Justice STRACHEY.

Commercial Causes.

137-81—Crawford B and Co—The Steam Ship Kasala Co Ld vs Steam Dewcurn Nanjee—Roughton and B part heart

In the matter of the Indian Companies Act VI of 1882 and in the matter of the English Press and M Co Limited and Reduced :—Wadia and G—The English Press and M Co Limited, Petitioners.

208-95—Roughton and B—The Fabrish Senitede Biachi Coloni vs Jugmohundas Vundrawandas and others—Little and Co

Testamentary Suits.

13-95—Pestonji R and K, and Bhaishanker and K—Hajrabai widow and others vs Tyab Hajee Essa—Framjee M and M

Before the Hon'ble Mr. Justice B. TYABJEE.

Suits for hearing and final disposal.

Short Causes.

614-96—In person—Doongersey Kutchra and others vs Sha Ghuba Gungajee and others

624-97—J C Cama—Jaitha Bhima and others vs Khoja Mahomed Madia Tharia Topen—Dikshit and D

703-97—Wadia and G—Dhana Promja and others vs Shaik Fakir Mahomed Kabanbhai

100-98—Ardeshir H and D—Avichal Oogurchand and others vs Anoopram Mithalal

205-98—Mathubhai and C—Vadilal Lalubhai vs Ratilal Bapalal—Chitnis M and M

242-98—Hiralal M and M—Hargowan Luchminarayen and others vs Motilal Chotalal and others

295-98—In person—Cassumbhoy Nanjee vs Noormohomed Megjee

296-98—Madhavjee V—Muljee Shamjee vs Cursondas Govindjee J C Cama

297-98—Tyabjee D and Co—Ramdas Purshotam and others vs Manohershaw D Burjorjee Wadia

298-97—Thakurdas D C and H—Currimbhoy Ebrahim and others vs Hemchand Jadowjee

315-98—A F Turner—Jeejibhoy Limjeebhoy Mody vs Munchershaw Kalkbuseroo Hiramanock—Nanu and H

316-98—Payne G and S—Nowroji Bomanji Vakil vs Dinshaw H Billimoria

For Investigation of Pauperism.

4-98—In person—Hasam Kassam vs Majee Elias Adum and others—Framjee D an C

21-98—In person—Sacoobai alias Luchmibai vs Abdool Hoosein Jiwabhoy—Magonlal and R, part heard by J Fulton

37-98—In person—Fakirahs Ahmed vs Bibi Bai

11-98—In person—Shamroo Babajee vs Krishnarao Ramchandra and others—Nanu and H

Postponed Long Causes.

123-97—Payne G and S—Virram Pisi and another vs The Hon Fazulbhoy Visram and another—Brown and M—Part heard

692-97—Sorabjee and J—Parvatibai vs Ramchandra Chimnajee Doonerra—Jehangir and S.

574-97—Jehangir and C—Raja Lukhma and others vs Bhai Baboojee—Payne G and S.

390-96—Payne G and S—Gomee Jamal Vayani vs Ahmedali Tajbhoy and others—Little and Co.

159-95—Mansukhlal D and J—Damodar Sonderdas and another vs Dwarkadas Shamjee and others—Bhalshunker and K

Defended New Long Causes.

202-98—Thakurdas D C and H—Currimbhoy Ebrahim and others vs Shripad Harishavday—Captain and V

THE POST OFFICE IN THE FIELD.

RECOGNITION OF SERVICES.

LETTERS are published in the *Gazette of India* from the Director-General of Post Offices, dated 12th May and 25th July, reporting on the postal arrangements made in connection with the Tochi Field Force the Malakand, the Mohmand, the Buner and the Tirah expeditions. They are preceded by the following resolutions :—

"The Governor-General in Council is pleased to find in these reports further testimony to the efficiency of the Postal Department, and observes with pleasure the favourable mention made by the Director-General of the services rendered by Mr. P. Sheridan, Postmaster-General of the Punjab, and other officers of the Department. His Excellency in Council also desires specially to acknowledge the assistance so readily given by the mail contractors, Messrs. C. Dhanjibhoy and Son, in establishing and maintaining in a high state of efficiency the several mail services which they undertook in connection with these operations."

Mr. Fanshawe, Director-General of Post Offices, in his reports, states that during the six months when the Malakand, the Mohmand and the Buner forces were in the field, over Rs. 2,39,000 unregistered articles were received and despatched, while the value of money-orders issued was nearly Rs. 5,40,000. The corresponding figures for the Tirah Expedition were Rs. 5,073,900 articles and nearly Rs. 20,00,000 of money-orders &c. ; but the latter sum also included cash received for stamps.

Mr. Fanshawe, after quoting the military despatches in which the good work done by the Postal Department was acknowledged, more particularly the work of Mr. A. C. Sheridan, Mr. C. J. Stowell, and Mr. Van Someren, concludes as follows :—"There were many officers, of course, besides these, to whose energy and hard work the success of the postal arrangements was due, and I beg to place the following names before Government as being worthy of special thanks :—Mr. Byrne, Superintendent of the Lahore Division of the Railway Mail Service, upon whom very onerous duties devolved ; Mr. Bean and Mr. Thompson, Postal Superintendents with the Tirah Expedition ; Mr. Appleby, at first Base Postmaster for the Malakand Field Force, and afterwards an officiating Superintendent with that Force ; Mr. Cama, at first Inspector and afterwards Superintendent with the Malakand Field Force ; Lala Bhagwandas Base Postmaster for the Tirah Expedition.

"Above all I desire to bring to the notice of the Government the valuable services rendered by Mr. Sheridan, Postmaster-General of the Punjab. The whole responsibility of making the necessary arrangements for these expeditions, as well as for the Tochi Expedition, devolved upon him, and to him, therefore, the main credit for their success is due. I can only say once more, as I said in my report on the postal arrangements for the Chitral Relief Force, that the quickness of apprehension, readiness of resource, and grasp of detail were signally displayed in dealing with the numerous difficulties which he had to face. The original organisation, of course, made the greatest demands upon his time and resource, but the special postal work of this character requires constant attention and close control at the end, and no officer in the Department could have managed this long and arduous task more ably than Mr. Sheridan." The services of Messrs. Danjibhai and Son are also specially mentioned.

THE WEATHER.

RAINFALL IN BOMBAY.

	Byculla. In. Cts.	Esplade. In. Cts.	Fort. In. Cts.	Colaba. In. Cts.
Previously registered	55 73	54 45	54 58	51 25
Monday, 22nd August	0 5	0 17	0 6	0 40
Total	55 73	54 62	54 65	51 65
Total fall to Aug 22nd, 1897	61 65	61 33	63 36	58 73
Total fall to Aug 22nd, 1896	56 31	84 38	90 52	84 38

Rainfall at Byculla and Fort registered from 6 p.m. to 6 p.m.; at the Esplanade from 8 a.m. to 8 a.m.; and at Colaba from 6 a.m. to 6 a.m.

MATHERAN.

	In.	Cts.
Previously registered	157	02
On the 22th August, 1898	1	73
Total	159	25

OBSERVATIONS TAKEN AT 8 A.M. ON MONDAY, THE 22ND OF AUGUST, 1898.

1. The barometric readings are corrected to Calicut standard, reduced to the same temperature 32° and also to the sea level and corrected to the constant gravity at Lat. 15.

2. The 2nd column under the head 'Wind' gives the average motion of the air in miles per hour during the past 24 hours, and is obtained by the total number of miles of wind registered by an anemometer during the previous 24 hours by 24.

3. The temperatures given in the table are of the air in the shade or in a small shed with open sides and a thatched or straw roof The maximum (max.) and minimum (min.) temperatures are the highest and lowest temperatures during the 24 hours preceding 8 a. m.

4. The humidity is given as a percentage expressing ratios of the actual amount of moisture in the air to the amount required to saturate it.

STATIONS.	Pressure, 8 a.m.	Wind. Direction.	Wind. Rate per hour.	Temperature in shade. Maximum of past 24 hours.	Temperature in shade. Minimum of past 24 hours.	Humidity, 8 a.m.	Rainfall. Past 24 hours.	Rainfall. Since 1st June, to date.	Variation, 1st June to date.
Lahore	29·574	Calm	2	103·6	86·0	58	..	12·77	—0·28
Sirsa	29·589	W	5	106·3	87·3	44	..	5·77	—3·39
Delhi	29·540	WNW	8	95·7	84·5	69	..	10·25	—0·47
Agra	29·570	NW	7	98·5	89·9	79	..	12·59	—0·71
Cawnpore	29·583	NNE	2	99·5	80·1	87	..	26·14	..
Allahabad	29·546	E	3	92·8	79·3	87	0·67	16·62	+9·55
Jhansi	29·596	NW	3	88·1	75·2	87	0·19	27·04	..
Jacobabad	29·555	S	5	103·4	80·6	71	..	2·90	+0·39
Karachi	29·646	WSW	12	90·4	78·0	83	0·57	2·24	—3·11
Jeypore	29·654	WNW	3	89·1	76·2	79	0·08	14·06	—4·79
Ajmere	29·618	W	4	94·0	76·6	71	..	7·42	—7·28
Deesa	29·691	WSW	10	94·3	77·5	80	..	13·04	—6·07
Ahmedabad	29·703	WSW	3	90·7	77·5	81	..	23·17	..
Bhuj	29·690	WSW	1	90·3	75·9	72	..	10·37	—0·58
Rajkot	29·95	W	11	91·3	77·2	77	..	5·53	—13·23
Ghadeehi	29·721	SW	7	92·6	70·8	84	0·49	18·48	..
Veraval	29·724	W	11	89·0	78·8	86	..	7·77	..
Neemuch	29·687	WNW	4	80·8	72·6	91	0·43	13·48	—7·63
Indore	29·684	NE	7

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COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE

MONDAY EVENING, AUGUST 22.

THE American crop figures to date give the following comparisons with the two previous seasons :—

	1898.	1897.	1896.
Week's Receipts	8,000	19,000	37,000
,, ,, to U. Kingdom	9,000	3,000	11,000
,, ,, Continent	15,000	6,000	3,000
Total receipts since 1st Sept.	8,503,000	6,637,500	5,223,000
,, exports to U. K. do.	4,795,000	3,007,000	2,271,000
,, ,, to Continent do.	5,348,000	2,861,000	2,252,000
,, Stock in the Ports	209,000	76,000	153,000

Total visible supply of Cotton for all Europe on the 19th inst. affords the following comparisons with the two previous years :—

	1898.	1897.	1896.
Total supply of all kinds	1,510,000	1,115,270	1,142,120
,, ,, Surats	101,000	114,390	131,330

For the United Kingdom only the figures are :—

	1898.	1897.	1896.
Stock in Liverpool	843,000	572,290	548,840
,, London	5,000	5,500	3,000
American Afloat	20,000	5,500	28,000
East Indian	6,000	3,000	3,300
Total	874,000	581,290	583,340
Price of Mid.-Americans	3 3-8d.	4 3-32d.	4 21-32d.
,, Good Dhollerahs	2 13-16d.	3 7-16d.	3 21-32d.
,, Bhownuggur	.....	....	.....
Difference	9-16d.	21-32d.	1 1-32d.

MONEY.—The Bank of Bombay return for the week ending on Saturday shows the following changes :—

Public Deposits at the Head Office	Inc. Rs.	3,03,799
,, ,, Branches	Inc. ,,	3,91,457
Other ,,	Inc. ,,	13,95,318
Government Securities	Inc. ,,	612
Other authorised ,,	Dec. ,,	32,375
Loans ,,	Inc. ,,	1,045
Bills Discounted and Purchased	Inc. ,,	2,59,544
Balances with other Banks	Inc. ,,	84,948
Cash	Inc. ,,	17,42,462

As disclosed by the Return of the Bank of Bombay issued to-day there was an increase in the Cash Balance during last week to the extent of some 17 1-2 lakhs, at 197 1-2 lakhs, compared with an increase in the previous week of 35 1-2 lakhs, at 180 lakhs. To Public Deposits there was an addition of 3 lakhs at the Head Office, and of about 4 lakhs at the Branches ; Private Deposits were 14 lakhs more. Bills Discounted and Purchased increased to the extent of 2 1-3 lakhs, and the Balances with other Banks were ¾ lakh higher.

COTTON.—The market has been very quiet to-day, but firm withal, and a small business has been done.

The telegraphic weather and crop reports wired from the districts this morning advise a rainfall since last Thursday of 1·62 inch at Khamgaon, 1·37 inch at Bhownagar, 1·16 inch at Viramgaun, while at the other stations the fall registered was under an inch at each. At Amraoti the weather was showery, and the Cotton plants could scarcely look better ; the plants at Wadhwan, Bhawnagar, and Barsi wanted more rain, while at Dhulia and Beawar more rain was also needed. The plants at Broach were in a flourishing condition, and all crops were doing well. In several parts of Bhawnagar the absence of rain was causing anxiety.

WHEAT and SEEDS continue quiet and without change.

The Receipts of Produce into Bombay on Saturday were as follows :—

Cotton	531	bales.
Wheat	145	cwts.
Linseed	2,456	,,
Rapeseed	5,418	,,
Poppyseed	2,090	,,
Castorseed	2,543	,,
Rice	3,421	,,

EXCHANGE.—The market opened steady in tone at 1s. 3 7-8d. for Bank Telegraphic and Demand, and 1s. 4d. to 1s. 4 1-32d. for three months' sight Credits. Merchants' Bills were very scarce, but there was a moderate demand for Bank Paper, and a fair amount of business was reported, both ready and forward. In the latter part of the day the market became somewhat weaker, and closed quiet as follows :—

Bank Bills on Demand	1s. 3 7-8d. per rupee
Do. Telegraphic	1s. 3 27-32d. ,,
Credits 3 months' sight	1s. 4d. ,,
Francs	1·08 1-4 ,,

GOVERNMENT PAPER has been a firm market at 95 1-4 for Cash for 3 1-2 per Cents, 95 3-16 for the Settlement, and 85 for Threes.

SHARES.—Standard and Presidency Mills have declined Rs. 10 each ; Jamshed Manufacturing, Rs. 5 ; Alcock Ashdown, Rs. 5 ; Bombay Burmah, Rs. 50 in the first issue ; and Tapti Valley Railway, Rs. 2 1-2.

BANK OF BOMBAY.

THE following is the Statement of the Affairs of the Bank of Bombay for the week ending 20th August, 1898, as compared with the Statement of 13th August, 1898 :—

LIABILITIES.	Aug 13. Rs.	Aug. 20. Rs.
Capital	1,00,00,000	1,00,00,000
Reserve Fund	74,00,000	74,00,000
Special Reserve Fund	.....	.....
Public Deposits at Head Office	45,82,186	48,82,985
Do. do. at Branches	20,25,466	24,16,923
Other Deposits	3,05,86,866	3,19,82,184
Post Bills	7,599	8,242
Credits, undrawn	20,25,083	22,70,198
Ca...	5,66,27,200	5,89,60,532
ASSETS.		
Government Securities	1,03,91,178	1,03,91,790
Other authorised Securities	36,20,497	35,88,122
Credits, on Govt. and other authorised Securities	58,77,671	61,54,783
Loans do. do. do.	1,33,84,337	1,33,85,382
Bills Discounted and purchased	48,08,356	50,67,900
Dead Stock	4,15,330	4,15,330
Stamps and Stationery	21,044	21,028
Bullion	.....	.....
Balances with other Banks	96,970	1,81,918
Cash	1,83,11,817	1,97,54,279
Rs..	5,66,27,200	5,89,60,532

BANK OF BENGAL.

THE following is the Statement of the Affairs of the Bank of Bengal, for the week ending 8th August, 1898, as compared with the Statement of 16th August, 1898 :—

LIABILITIES.	Aug. 8. Rs.	A.	P.	Aug. 16. Rs.	A.	P.
Capital paid up	2,00,00,000	0	0	2,00,00,000	0	0
Reserve Fund	88,50,000	0	0	88,50,000	0	0
Public Deposits, &c.	2,30,57,387	3	11	2,15,22,265	6	9
Other Deposits, &c.	5,42,19,948	1	10	5,04,77,648	3	1
Bank Post Bills, &c.	2,31,480	0	4	3,38,213	3	0
Sundries	23,38,147	0	0	24,72,813	12	3
	Rs. 10,76,97,162	6	1	10,35,10,840	9	1
ASSETS.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Government Securities	34,72,521	0	0	33,76,720	0	0
Other authorised Investm.	70,53,734	0	0	70,49,774	0	0
Loans on Govt. and other	1,51,43,131	11	7	1,50,36,849	10	6
Accounts of Credit do.	2,24,16,552	2	6	2,18,54,707	14	5
Bills Discounted, &c.	1,47,16,535	11	4	1,36,39,012	5	10
Balances with other Banks	2,28,353	6	9	7,24,971	7	9
Notes	1,653	3	6	1,375	11	0
Dead Stock	13,15,548	4	7	13,13,588	11	3
Stamps	9,742	12	6	9,355	4	0
Sundries	16,64,737	7	0	16,65,197	9	11
Cash, &c., at Head Office	2,37,48,343	6	0	1,95,52,402	0	10
Do. at Branches	1,89,21,310	4	4	1,92,84,855	13	7
	Rs. 10,76,97,162	6	1	10,35,10,840	9	1

The following is the Bank's Memorandum of Liabilities and Assets up to 20th August, 1898.

LIABILITIES.	Rs.	
Treasury Balance at Head Office	1,45,142	Dec.
Do. at Branches	3,90,179	do.
Other Deposits	37,92,430	do.
Post Bills	1,96,733	Inc.
ASSETS.		
Bank's Investments	99,761	Dec.
Loans	1,11,282	do.
Accounts of Credit	5,59,845	do.
Mercantile Bills	10,7,491	do.
Cash at Head Office	31,95,940	do.
Cash at Branches	3,63,545	Inc.

[REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL NEWS.

LONDON, AUG. 20.

The Liverpool Cotton market closed quiet. Surats dull.

Good Bhownuggur	2 23-32
The Manchester market has been quiet but steady.	
2½ per cent. Consols	110 5-8
3 per cent. Rentes	103 1-2
3½ per cents. Sterling Loan	113 1-2
3½ per cent. Rupee Paper	92 13-16
Bar Silver	27 3-8

I. M. RAILWAY.

Week ending 6th August, 1898

Description.	1898.	1897.	Inc. for the week.	Dec. for the week.	Aggregate Inc.	Aggregate Dec.
Miles Open ...	933	940	..	..	..	...
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Passengers,	35,720	35,692	...	972	10,881	...
Parcels, &c.	44,59	65,651	..	21,285	...	1,18,271
Goods	3,190	7,753	..	4,563	...	2,067
Other earnings	83,279	1,10,101	...	26,825	...	...
Total for week	5,30,149	6,39,606	...	..	...	1,09,457
Aggregate						

DOMESTIC OCCURRENCES.

[THE CHARGE FOR NOTIFYING A DOMESTIC OCCURRENCE IS TWO RUPEES. THE ANNOUNCEMENT MUST BE AUTHENTICATED.]

BOMBAY.

DEATH.

FERRIS—August 22, between Ahmedabad and Bombay, Lieut John Tate Ferris, 2nd Central India Horse, dearly loved son of Lieut-Colonel W B Ferris, Staff Corps, aged 22 years and 9 months.

OTHER PRESIDENCIES.

BIRTHS.

BENNETT—August 19, the wife of F D Bennett, of a daughter.
HENDERSON—August 20, at Madras, the wife of G W Henderson, Jeypore Forest Department, of a daughter.
MAHONEY—August 17, at Bolaram, Hyderabad (Deccan), the wife of Assistant Surgeon E Mahoney, Hyderabad Contingent, of a daughter.
ROBERTS—August 13, at The Repose, Darjeeling, the wife of R G S Roberts, of Purneah, of a daughter.
WHITCHURCH—August 16, at Palamcottah, the wife of E J Whitchurch, of the Salt, Abkari and Customs Department, of a son.
WOODBERT—August 9, at Fair View, Lansdour, the wife of Surgeon-Major H R Woolbert, I M S, of a daughter.

DEATHS.

BAILEY—August 16, at Mussoorie, Frederica Honoria Bailey, younger daughter of the late T Bailey, of the Agra Bank.
MITCHELL—August 14, at Munmar, G I P R, Hugh Norman Bailie, son of H Mc P Mitchell, aged 1 year and 8 months.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*** ALL communications intended for publication in our columns, should be addressed to the Editor and not to any individual member of the staff.

The Bombay Gazette

TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 1898.

THE passing of Bismarck fills the pages of the European press in the first week of August, brought to us by the mail which has just arrived. The death of the statesman who remade Germany with blood and iron, even following closely on that of Gladstone seemed to the Conservative *Standard* to cast a deep broad shadow across Europe. The *Moscow Gazette*, though conscious that his policy was antagonistic to Russia, considers his death to be a loss to the cause of monarchy in Europe. "A monarchist to the backbone, he recognised that Monarchy is the only form of government that assures peace to nations. In that field he was a fellow-worker with our own great autocratic Czar. If the monarchical idea had grown stronger not only in Germany but in other countries of Europe, it was owing alone to Alexander III and Prince Bismarck. We Russians then can cherish a kindly memory of the Iron Chancellor." The Moscow journalist in writing thus bore perhaps unconscious testimony to the fact that Prince Bismarck was a Slav in race, and in certain fundamental ideas which throughout his career inspired his policy and suggested his methods. Even the French victims of the relentless genius which crushed them to the earth in 1870-71, do justice to the commanding proportions in which it was cast. The *Matin*, organ of M. Meline, the late Premier, sees an apotheosis in his death, which alone was required to remind his fellow-countrymen of the services he rendered them : "The shadow of his genius no longer offends any one ; his glory no longer offends. It seems as if his mighty stature, which had been bent by years, is once more drawn up to its full height, and that Bismarck reappears as the Colossus of German unity—a second Arminius." It is true all the French journals are not equally magnanimous. The *Temps*, organ of the Foreign Office, dwells on the fact that the creator of German Unity did not found his edifice on the eternal rock of morality, but with his own hand placed the germ of death in his work. "German Unity is indeed irrevocably acquired. What is in question is the duration of the Prussian conquest, the militarism imposed upon Germany, the armed peace to which Europe is condemned, the hostility purposely fostered against France, Alsace, and Lorraine transferred like a herd of cattle from one owner to another, and the maintenance of a regime where everything depends on one unique and absolute will, which would require a succession of giants to support it." Still the writer does not find it difficult to be just to a man dying, vanquished and overthrown : "France shed sincere tears for Washington and Gladstone great benefactors to humanity. She associates herself respectfully with the memory for the great adversaries who wrought her most harm. She did not disturb the solemnity of the funeral of the Emperor William, and will not break the silence of the obsequies of the author of German Unity." Another Paris paper observes that Bismarck was already dead, when, eight years ago he was broken like a reed by the young Emperor William II ; "The funeral procession now is only the consecration of the decree pronounced against him by the decree of 1890."

Bismarck fixed the date of his political death two years before, when the Emperor William I. was laid in the mausoleum of the Hohenzollerns. He directed that his epitaph should give the dates of his birth and death, with the words "The faithful German subject of the Emperor William I."; thus ignoring the existence of that monarch's two successors. The Emperor William II. proposed that the remains should be interred amongst his royal ancestors, and that a sarcophagus with a statue should be placed in the cathedral. Prince Herbert Bismarck replied, with studied coldness, that such a wish would be law to the Bismarck family, but that the will of the Prince directed that he should be buried by the side of his wife in the Sachsenwald. The personal condolences of the Emperor, who hastened back from Sweden at the first news of the impending death of the Prince, were scarcely acknowledged. The desire of the Emperor that a cast of the great Chancellor's features should be taken by a distinguished artist whom he sent to Friedericksruh was ignored ; the artist was refused admittance. It is asserted, that this attitude has been observed with the distinct object of deterring His Imperial Majesty from requesting that the great Chancellor's memoirs, three volumes of which are printed, and deposited in the Bank of England for safe custody, should be placed in the Imperial archives. The memoirs have been sold to an important publishing house of the Union Company Stuttgard, for a million marks—£50,000. They will be given to the public at such time as Prince Herbert may determine. Clearly there is a fixed determination on the part of the family, which has inherited, with much else, a considerable share of the iron will and stern vindictiveness of its illustrious founder, not to forget or condone the decree of March 18, 1890. We reproduced on Saturday last the remarkable letter in which the Chancellor with "the greatest submission" and many veiled threats, explained how it was impossible for him to draft a decree abolishing the Order of 1852, making it obligatory on all Ministers to submit their views to the Sovereign through the Premier. That the argued would be a return to absolutism ; under the constitutional system established in Prussia and Germany it is necessary for the Prime Minister to be responsible, and responsibility would be too great a burden for a Premier who did not know what his colleagues advised : "I cannot doubt that your Majesty knows and believes that it is impossible for me to abolish the Order and yet to remain Minister. Nevertheless your Majesty has confirmed the order given me on the 15th, and held forth a prospect of your granting my request for dismissal thus rendered necessary." The letter, by no means "reverent" in tone, though the word frequently recurs, winds up with a peremptory demand for dismissal, in words that practically left to His Majesty the responsibility for all the consequences : "I should have laid the request for dismissal from my offices before your Majesty more than a year ago, had I not had the impression that your Majesty wished to use the experience and faculties of a faithful servant of your forefathers. Now that I am sure that your Majesty does not need them, I am at liberty to withdraw from political life, without fearing that my resolutions will be condemned by public opinion as ill-timed.—Von Bismarck." It is now known that this letter led to a very painful scene between the young Kaiser and his masterful Chancellor. It was closed by the latter rising and, saying, in English, "Then I am in your way, Sir ?" The Emperor replied in the one English word "Yes !" It was the only answer possible under the circumstances ; it was never forgiven.

"I flatter myself that I have contributed not a little to bring the Bundesrath to a penetrating feeling of its own nothingness" wrote Bismarck in 1849, when Minister of Prussia to the Frankfort Parliament, which was trying to create a German Empire on constitutional lines by speeches and resolutions. Ten or twelve years later, when Ambassador at St. Petersburg, ruminating on many things, —while making influential friends at the Russian Court, where he was high in the favour of Alexander II., and on the best footing with Prince Gortschakoff—Bismarck seemed to have an intuition of the vanity of all things in this perplexing world. "As God wills !" he mused. "Everything here is after all but a question of time. Nations and men, Folly and Truth, Peace and War—they come and go like waves of water, and the ocean remains. There is nothing but hypocrisy and jugglery on this earth, and whether fever or grape-shot tear off this mask of flesh, sooner or later it must come, and then, between a Prussian and an Austrian, if they are equally big, a resemblance will come to light which baffles description. Wise and simple too, clearly macerated into skeletons, look pretty much like one another," That philosophic reflection did not prevent the young diplomatist from making plans, which, with time some and assistance from grape-shot, he eventually carried out. It was generally believed at the time that he was endeavouring to bring about an alliance between Prussia, France and Russia—France to get Belgium and the Rhine Provinces, Russia to have Posen, while Prussia was to be indemnified by the absorption of the smaller German Principalities. Here we have the Benedetti Treaty in embryo, with the first indication of the fixed idea of a Russian understanding, which was to be carried so far in 1888—when, unknown, it is said, even to the Kaiser, he entered into a secret treaty with that Power, which practically threw over the Austrian partner in the Triple Alliance. In 1860, when the newspapers in Germany asserted that the Prussian Ambassador at St. Petersburg was aiming at an alliance with France and Russia, Count Bismarck denied that any one could prove that such proposals had been brought to his knowledge : "I will pay 1,000 Friedrichs d'or down on the nail to him who can prove to me that such Franco-Russian offers have been brought to my knowledge by anyone. During my whole stay in St. Petersburg I have never done anything else than to trust the national strength of our own Germany, to be called upon only in case of war. These silly scribblers of the German Press are quite blind to the fact that they are acting contrary to the better part of their own endeavours in attacking me"—which was indeed literally true. The German Press did not understand that he was even then feeling his way to the great work of his life—The reconstruction of the German Empire.

THE details of skilful and resolute night attack on Chimnya's noted gang of dacoits in an almost inaccessible village on the 6th August, show that Inspector Yeshwant Mahedev and his men are endowed with very exceptional pluck. The report of Mr. D. Davis, District Superintendent Police of Nassick records what happened. That officer had just returned to Vaghad from Peint, where he had made arrangements for housing a detachment of troops intended to operate against the gang, when he learned that a "flying column" of selected Police under Inspector Yeshwant had attacked the dacoits in the village of Chaminlal, some forty miles distant through the hills. Starting at 1 p.m. with his assistant Mr. Greenway had to march through a country practically under water and in some parts impassible even for horses. On arrival at Chaminlal they learned that at 1 a.m. that morning. Inspector Yeshwant received information that the gang was located in the village in question eleven miles distant, high up in the midst of the hills. He at once set out with his little column, and moved with all possible celerity to the village. It consisted of a dozen huts, and had evidently been selected because of its inaccessible position surrounded on all sides by thick forest. The dacoits were fifteen in number ; they occupied a large hut, and to guard against surprise had posted sentries outside before proceeding to celebrate with music and song their successes against the police, and the escape of some of them from custody. The Inspector relying on the heavy rain, and the dark clouds to conceal his approach, devided his men into two bodies, and crept within fifteen yards of the hut for before a sentry gave the signal a volley that killed two of the sepoys. The dacoits sniders and other guns captured from the British police, and the police of the State of Dhampore. The volley was promptly answered by the police, and some heavy firing took place. The Inspector got a bullet in his right hand, another passed through his sleeve, and a third struck the hilt of his sword, and two sepoys were severely wounded. As the dacoits had an advantage, firing from shelter the Inspector got to close quarters, rushed the hut, and disposed of twelve of the gang who were killed or captured. They included the regular numbers of the gang, and all those who had escaped from custody at Chandore and Nassick. The smoke of the firing, the rain, the darkness and the vicinity of the thick jungle enabled some of the dacoits, and amongst them Chimnya, to escape. The latter however appears to have been seriously wounded, for one of his garments, stained with blood and showing two bullet holes, was found the next morning by a search party. Two wounded dacoits were also found and brought in. Two of Chimnya's lieutenants have fallen and another was captured unwounded. A considerable number of recaptured breech loaders, ink swords, ammunition, and gold ornaments taken from Marwaries were among the spoils. Mr. Moore, the District Magistrate of Nassick, is fully warranted in saying that to rush a hut defended by desperadoes armed with breech-loaders and fighting for their lives argues a courage and a determination which would do credit to regular troops. We can well believe that the exploit has made a great impression, and that information as to the movements of dacoits is now given very freely.

A REPORT has been received from Mr. Claxton, Meteorologist at Mauritius, which accounts for the weakness the monsoon is now displaying, and leads to the expectation of a break in the rains in India, if not of an earlier cessation than previously anticipated. It seems that at the end of last month a very unusual state of affairs set in at Mauritius. Broken weather with indications of heavy gales to the south was observed. This would have the effect of drawing away the rain-bearing winds from the west coast of India, while accentuating the formation of the local storms in the Bay of Bengal, which has been a prominent feature of the last fortnight, though they are not due nearly so early. At the moment good rain is probable throughout a great part of Upper and Central India, owing to the advance through Bengal of one of these local storms which, strangly enough originate in Burma, and has to-day reached Chota Nagpur. Things are less promising, however, for Western India, including the Punjab and Rajputana, in the last-named of which regions the crops were on Sunday reported to be critical owing to deficient rainfall.

THE P. and O. s. s. Carthage, with the outward mails of the 12th instant, left Aden at 9 p. m. on Sunday, and is expected to arrive in Bombay at daylight, on Saturday next.

THE many friends of Mr. J. M. Filgate, Inspector-General of Prisons, who is now on leave, will regret to learn that he has sustained a carriage accident in Ireland of so serious a nature, that he will, it is feared, be confined to his room for a considerable time.

MR. H. G. GELL, Deputy Commissioner of Police arrived in Bombay yesterday, by the French mail steamer Natal. He was received at the Ballard Pier by Sardar Mir Abdul Ali and few friends, who presented him with superb bouquets of flowers. Mr. Gell proceeded directly to the Head Police office with the Sardar, and thence to his bungalow at Gibbs Road, Malabar Hill.

AT the High Court, yesterday, the Hon Mr. Justice Strachey delivered judgment in the matter of a rule "nisi," issued at the instance of one of the defendants in the suit of Hiralal Jamnadas vs. Goverdhandas Sittaram and others, calling upon Mr. L. A. Watkins, the receiver appointed in the suit, and Mr. James Peace, his attorney, to show cause why writs should not issue for their arrest and imprisonment for contempt of court in not obeying a judge's order, made on the 10th April, 1895, to the effect that the receiver should deposit the nett proceeds of the sale of certain property when realised in the Bank of Bombay, and that the amount of such deposit should be held subject to the further order of the court. It was admitted that the nett proceeds, amounting to Rs. 10,000, were realised by Mr. Watkins, and received by Mr. Peace, but no part of it was deposited in the Bank except a sum of Rs. 3,555, and that was deposited a year after the realisation. His lordship held that both Mr. Watkins and Mr. Peace were guilty of a serious contempt of court, which was aggravated by the responsible position of trust which they occupied. The only doubt his lordship felt was whether he ought not at once to commit them for contempt of court, of which they had been proved guilty. His lordship with some hesitation came to the conclusion that he might properly give them a *locus penitentiae*, an opportunity of purging their contempt by replacing with interest the monies which they had misapplied. If they did not avail themselves of the opportunity to pay into court the sum of Rs. 7,900 with interest, they would have to go back to prison. The warrants of attachment were not to issue until 16th October 1898 ; and were then to issue if the money was not paid into court with interest. Mr. Watkins and Mr. Peace were to pay the costs of the applicant, and each must pay his own costs.

WE reproduce elsewhere from the *Pioneer* the first instalment of an extremely interesting account of Mr. Cobbold's journey from India to Southern Siberia and back via the Pamirs to Gilgit and Kashmir. Mr. Cobbold not only had excellent sport, but seems to have collected much information both of interest and value regarding the countries through which he passed and the peoples with whom he sojourned.

THE regiments which will probably take part in the cavalry manœuvres between Umballa and Aligarh in January are the 5th Dragoon Guards, 9th Lancers, 11th Hussars, 16th Lancers, and the 1st, 2nd, 5th, 7th, 8th, 15th, 16th and 17th Bengal Cavalry. The batteries of horse artillery have not yet been named.

THE suicide of another British soldier is reported. Private W. Williams, of the Highland Light Infantry at Karachi, poisoned himself on Thursday by taking iodine.

ORDERS will probably issue next month regarding the reduction of the garrison at the Malakand and in the Swat Valley, always provided no fresh cause of uneasiness arises in Bajour. Presumably the Buffs and 3rd Bombay Infantry will be the first to move with the advent of the cold weather in October.

To the people of Tranquebar, isolated on the Coromandel Coast, who asked for railway communication, the Governor of Madras said on Thursday : "The Government of India have too many railway schemes on hand, and I will not, therefore, hold out any hope of a railway for Tranquebar."

THE mountain artillery in India is also likely soon to receive a new gun, which will take a 10lb. shell. Here again cordite will be used. This gun will be a jointed breech-loader, which can be put together without the use of a sledge hammer. Experiments made at home seem to show that an excellent pattern has been secured.

THE Kwangsi rebellion is practically ended, but there is much uneasiness in Canton regarding the presence of a number of gangs of ruffians in the city.

A DEPUTATION of six members of the Darjeeling Planters' Association has been commissioned to wait upon Sir John Woodburn on his arrival at Darjeelingand lay the requirements of the district before him. The subject of coolie recruiting by Government will be an important item.

As a contemporary explains, one of the chief obstacles to an Imperial penny postage has hitherto lain in the fact that while one country receives the postage of a letter the other country receives the postage of the reply. But both letter and reply have to be carried through the two countries, and consequently each country has to transmit two communications while receiving only the postage of one. With inland postage the difficulty of course does not arise, as the country in that case receives the postage of both letter and reply.

THE military authorities at Simla have now under final consideration the report and recommendations made by Lieutenant-Colonel O'Sullivan, R. E., on the defensive positions in Chitral Valley, more particularly as regards Drosh and the Shishi Kuh posts. Colonel O'Sullivan has been in Simla for some days past to explain all the important details.

IT appears from the second official forecast of the monsoon that in all probability there will be no prolonged general break in Northern or Central India during August, and that the rains will finally cease about the normal date, namely, during the third or fourth week in September. Meanwhile we learn from another source that up to the present there has been a slight excess of rain in the central districts of India ; a normal fall in Burma and the west of the Peninsula ; a slight diificiency in Madras, Bengal and Upper India ; and a larger deficiency in North Bombay and Rajputana.

As anticipated, the Commissioner in Sindh has informed the Karachi Municipality that it has no power to limit the duration of the special plague taxes which it has applied for sanction to impose to a specified period of three years. The Municipality however, being advised by its legal adviser that, in his opinion, there is no objection to the course, adheres to its proposal. The point will, therefore, most probably be referred to the Legal Remembrancer. At any rate the period of three years fixed by the Municipality will have to be prolonged, as by a recent Bombay Government Resolution apportioning the expenditure incurred during the first outbreak of plague in Sindh in 1896-97 between Government and the local bodies concerned, the Karachi Municipality has been held liable for an additional sum of about 1 1-2 lakhs disbursed by Government for the repayment of which provision was not made in the measures taken by the Municipality.

So many men in India use shot guns, remarks a contemporary, that no apology is required for drawing attention to the modern tendency towards shortening the length of the shot cartridge. This, of course, is due to the possibility of greatly reducing the bulk of the powder charge by the use of the new concentrated powders, of which ballistite, walsrode and rifleite are probably the best known forms. The matter was recently discussed by a well-known authority in the *Field*, who contended that cartridges 2 inches or 1 7-8 inches in length were just as effective in an ordinary gun as those of the usual length of 2 1-2 inches. The saving in weight and bulk is considerable, and in using 1,000 of the short cartridges the shooter dispenses with over 40 feet of cartridge tubing. We do not know if the short cartridges are procurable in India, but any gunmaker who takes the trouble to introduce them into this country will probably find a ready sale and make no small profit.

THERE has occurred a very marked diminution in the rainfall over India during the past week. Burma, Assam, Bengal and east of the North-West Provinces have receive daily fairly heavy rain from the Bay monsoon current ; but the rain-giving qualities of the Arabian Sea branch of the monsoon have been very low, and, except over the region mentioned above, nothing more than scattered showers have been received. The failure of the rainfall has been most marked over North-West India and the centre and east of the Peninsula, where large tracts of country have been wholly without rain. As regards North-West India the monsoon has indeed been unsatisfactory throughout August ; so much so that many stations, as for example Lahore, Khushab, Montgomery, Jacobabad, Jodhpur and Karachi have had no rain whatever during the present month ; while Kathiwar and parts of eastern Rajputana have received only very insignificant amounts. For the monsoon from June 1st to date there has been an excess of rain averaging half an inch over the central districts of India, about a normal fall over Burma and the west of the Peninsula, while over Madras there has been an average deficiency of three-quarters of an inch, over Bengal and Upper India an average deficiency exceeding one inch, and in north Bombay and Rajputana an average deficiency of over four inches.

THE Central Provinces season reports for the past week are summarised in the following general remarks :—The weather has been more or less showery. The rainfall has been heavy in Balaghat, Raipur and Sambalpur, moderate in the northern districts, and light elsewhere. The prospects of standing crops are generally favourable. Insects, however, are reported to be doing damage to the rice crop in the Janjgir tahsil of the Bilaspur district. Weeding operations impeded in Mandla, Narsinghpur and in parts of Damoh. A break would be of great benefit. Transplantion of rice completed in Seoni and continues in the other districts. Land being prepared for winter sowings in a few districts. Cattle disease still continues in portions of five districts. Prices of rice and gram fluctuate within narrow limits : but those of wheat and juar show a general tendency to fall. The cheapest prices are—wheat 17, gram 32, rice 17 and juar 28 seers per rupee. In Saugor and Balaghat wheat is selling under 12 seers per rupee : and Narsinghpur is the only district where rice is selling under 10 seers per rupee.

THE Government has placed at the disposal of the Press the papers relating to the recent plague cases at Guntakul Junction. On the 14th instant, the Collector of Anantapur was informed by wire by the District Surgeon at Guntakul of an imported case of plague. The immediate sanction of an apothecary was also asked for and granted. Of course the usual precautionary measures were adopted, but on the following day another case was reported in the Staff Lines at Guntakul, and on the 17th, a platform cooly was attacked, thus making three cases in all. Beside the attendance and medical aid of an apothecary, a European head constable with a force of policemen has been appointed to conduct a ten days' examination of arrivals. The Surgeon-General inspected the pl

TELEGRAMS.

[REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.]

SUBMISSION OF A REBELLIOUS TRIBE.

LONDON, AUG. 21.

Reuter's correspondent at Zanzibar telegraphs that the Ogaden Somalis, who have long been in rebellion, have now submitted.

Sir A. H. Hardinge, H. M.'s Consul-General, is going to Kismayu to arrange terms with the tribe.

THE SURRENDER OF MANILA WITH THE HONOURS OF WAR.

AUG. 22.

The text of the official despatch giving details of the surrender of Manila received at Washington shows that the surrender applies only to the city of Manila and to the forces stationed therein.

It is expressly declared that the Spaniards capitulated with all the honours of war.

Cable communication with Manila has now been restored.

THE NILE EXPEDITION.

AUG. 21.

The Army Transport under Colonel Martin has reached the camp at Makawiyeh, four days' journey above Atbara.

The march proved a trying one for the troops, whilst the country was found to be deserted.

THE MAILS.

ADEN, AUG. 22.

The P. and O. Co.'s s. s. Carthage, with the English mails of the 12th inst., left here for Bombay at 9 p.m. yesterday.

THE TRANSPORT COMMITTEE.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

SIMLA, AUG. 22.

The transport committee, composed of the president, Lieutenant-General Sanford, commanding Meerut, and members: Colonel Christopher, C.B.; Colonel Hutchinson, commanding Lahore; Lieutenant-Colonel De-Brath, and Majors Hawkes and Wharry, and Secretaries, Major Mullaly, R.E., and Captain Wickham will assemble here almost immediately. It will consider the question of improvement of transport service in India in peace and war. It is composed of men of all with thorough transport, knowledge and its recommendations will be accordingly authoritative.

THE BURMA FORESTS.

GOVERNMENT PLANS.

Mr. Ribbentrop, Inspector-General of Forests, has returned to Simla after his Burma tour. The full results of his mission will not be made known until late, but I understand that one consequence is likely to be the taking over by Government of the timber contracts on both the Upper and Lower Chindwin as the existing ones fall in. This will enable these rich forests to be worked on less wasteful principles, besides resulting in improved revenue without throwing any overwhelming amount of additional work upon the Burma forest officials.

THE D. Q. M. G. AT HEAD-QUARTERS.

Colonel Peacocke has arrived at Simla, to take up his permanent appointment of Deputy Quarter Master General.

PLAGUE IN HUBLI AND BHOR STATE.

POONA, AUG. 22.

Ninety cases and seventy-three deaths were recorded in Hubli town on the 18th, and eighty-two cases and fifty-eight deaths on the 19th instant; total cases, 1,864, and 1,562 deaths. In Bhor State there were eleven cases and eleven deaths, and there was also one case and one death in Dhond. Some indigenous cases were reported last week at Dharwar, and dead bodies were found in some houses. The inhabitants, being frightened, are leaving the place in numbers. The authorities are trying their best to pacify the people in the village of Alur, of Ron taluka, which has been attacked with plague.

CHIMNA THE NASIK DACOIT.

POONA, AUG. 22.

CHIMNA the ringleader, of one of the Nasik dacoit gangs, who was wounded in the last struggle with the police was arrested with his three other companions at the village of Bhayagan by a party of policemen a few days ago in the house. He threw his two rifles and four swords to the police and surrendered himself. He is a strongly built man. He was wounded in the back, and the bullet has not been extracted. He was brought to Nasik, where a large number of people turned out to see him. He made a confession before Rao Saheb Hardikar Mamlatdar of Nasik which he said he never intended to make redress (*sic*) against British Government, but totake revenge on Marwaris. He also confesed he has murdered two.

THE POONA TRAGEDY.

NOTHING more has transpired yet since the murder of Aga Asham Shah, which took place about a week ago. But rumours are afloat that the trial will bring out some startling revelations. The police are now engaged in unearthing. Mr. Guider, with a couple of assistants are in Bombay. The murderer is locked up in Cantonment police chowkee. He will be placed before Mr. Carvalho on Wednesday, when further remand will be asked bythe police. All the members of Aga Khan's family have removed to their new Bungalow, which has been erected beyond Yerrowda. Took with them their trustful servant. The body of Aga Haiham Shah lies in jamat khana. It has been embalmed kept pending instructions from His Highness before being removed.

CRICKET.

LORD SANDHURST'S ELEVEN VS. POONA VOLUNTEERS.

A cricket match, Lord Sandhurst's eleven vs. Poona Volunteers was played to-day at Ganeshkind, and resulted in a win for the home team by 20 runs. The weather throughout the day was dull and heavy. Two of the visitors who are at present at Ganeshkhind played in the match of Volunteers, went in and made 100 runs. Veerjee Cary, Poke, and Samson scored double figures, 26 29, 28, 14, respectively. Ganeshkhind went for their venture, and a change was made by sending their weakest batsman in first, which showed, good result. Herron, and Reshworth players scored 31 and 21. Greig made 45, Bythell 15. The innings closed with 131 Next week, Lord Sandhurst's eleven will play with the Kathiawar team, in which Prince Rane Jitsinghje will take part. He comes to Poona next week, and will probably be the guest of Lord Sandhurst.

The semi-final ties in the polo tournament will be played off on Wednesday. The first match will be with the Poona Gymkhana vs. Poona Horse A team and Poona Horse D team with the Durhams.

[REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.]

STEAMER MOVEMENTS.

PLYMOUTH, AUG. 20.

The P. and O. Company's steamer Arabia arrived here this morning.

LIVERPOOL, AUG. 20.

The Clan Line steamer Clan Murray left here for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta this afternoon.

HONG KONG, AUG. 20.

The P. and O. Company's steamer Parramatta left here this afternoon for Bombay.

The same Company's steamer Japan (extra) left here this afternoon for London direct.

AUG. 22.

The P. and O. Company's steamer Verona (extra) arrived here this morning from Bombay.

The German East Africa Line steamer Safari arrived at Zanzibar from Bombay on the 20th instant via Mombassa.

THE SIMLA SEASON.

ART AND THE DRAMA.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

SIMLA, AUG. 17.

A PLEASANT little burst of almost September weather ushered in the week, and the sun shone bright on the Mall, and people began to ask if we had got to the end of the rains, but the clouds have now closed down upon us again, and from Prospect Hill to Jakko is one wet white mass of clinging fog. A few small slips have taken place about the station, but they are none of them important, and beyond the discomfort of leaky roofs and wet jampanees we are little the worse.

Last Friday was the first performance here of *Liberty Hall*, which most of us are inclined to regard as the most successful piece that has been put upon the stage by the Simla A. D. C. this season. The cast is nearly the same as when the piece was acted in Lahore, Mr. Lightfoot continuing to take the part of the shop-keeper and Mrs. Wheeler that of Blanche Chilworth.

Your readers are probably acquainted with the piece. Its simple story of the two motherless girl, Blanche and Amy Chilworth (Mrs. Wheeler and Miss Craigie), who take refuge with their old shop-keeping uncle, Mr. Todman, (Mr. Lightfoot), in whose house the distant cousin, Mr. Owen (Mr. Jacob), to whom their father's property has descended, comes to stay in the assumed character of shopman, and makes love to and ultimately marries Blanche, is one that is capable of a great deal. And Simla has seldom seen a more touching scene than that where old Mr. Todman, who has sheltered his aristocratic nieces, tries to conceal from them the fact that he has fallen into financial trouble, and is in fact in the merciless hands of the usurer, Mr. Briginshaw (Captain Holloway), who has cast an amorous eye upon Blanche, and proposes for her hand as the price of absolving Mr. Todman from his liabilities. Mrs. Wheeler's interpretation of Blanche's character is simply excellent, as this at first somewhat proud and egoistic damsel is gradually won by the unselfish devotion of her lover and the tender high-mindedness of her real nature is brought out that raises her above all sordid and class prejudices to recognise the value of the love that is offered to her. Mr. Jacob, too, has a part to which he can do full justice, while Mr. Lightfoot's Mr. Todman is a triumph of sympathetic acting.

The first act perhaps hangs a little, but in the second the interest of the piece grows intense and never flags thereafter, the misunderstanding between Blanche and her lover, where she finds him, as she thought, trifling with her sister being very powerful indeed Miss Craigie has a thankless part to play in the empty-Amy headed little, but she succeeds in bringing out the contrast between the two sisters success-fully, and plays the difficult part of a foil conscientiously and well. This is the more creditable as she had to take up the character at very short notice, owing to the indisposition of Miss Wheeler, who was intended to have filled it. Mr. Kennard takes the part of the Hon'ble Gerald Harringay, who tries to elope with Amy, and is only prevented by the interposition of Mr. Owen who thereby places himself in the position that gives rise to the misunderstanding with Blanche. Like Mr. Gillespie, who is the amorous shop-boy of the piece, he grasps the humour of the situation, and contributes not a little to its development.

Mr. Briginshaw in Captain Holloway's hands, is an even more important character, and the scene where captain Pressy, as the unsophisticated bumpkin catches him in a revoke at whist is capital. The last-named keeps the audience in a roar with his assumed vacancy of expression, while Mrs. Anderson's gawky Miss Hickson requires to be seen to be appreciated. Colonel Craigie makes most of the Lawyer's part, in the first act, and succeeds in preventing the necessary but somewhat lengthy statement he has to make from becoming wearysome.

I have left Craper, the troublesome old servant of Mr. Todman's establishment which was played by Mrs. Vans Agnew, like Miss Westland's Luscombe, to the last, only because of the difficulty of doing justice to their merits. The first-named could not move across the stage without everybody's laughing, so droll was her naturalness, which was never overdone, even where she nearly swept Mr. Todman into the dustpan and threw the cups and saucers on to the tea table, while Miss Westland made a Phyllis in the first act who was simply capital.

Of other events of the week, I must notice the opening, by His Excellency the Viceroy, of the fine Arts Exhibition, which is an unusually good one this year. You have already published particulars of the more important pictures. It is only necessary, therefore, for me to mention a few others that have also attracted attention. Amongst these are Major Hobday's black and white drawing of the night attack on the camp at Nawagi, a realistic piece of work of much merit showing masses of fanatics charging on to impassive British Lines of camels and infantry in the lurid glare of a sar shell overhead, which breaks the blackness of the general darkness; Mr. Morse's "Sunset on the Beas," a warm brown study of mud flats and quiet water which is pleasing in its harmony; Mrs Oliver's picture of the Bombay foreshore, with the big public buildings behind reflected in the flooded cricket field; Lieutenant Shuttleworth's Feld of Poona Poppies, a delightfully cool and restful picture: Lieutenant Dixon's spirited drawing of the now historic charge of the Guides Cavalry and 11th Bengal lancers over the low rice-fields close to Chakdara, when that fort was relieved. This is so faithful topographically, and appeals so directly to those who know the locality, that it is impossible to withhold appreciation higher, perhaps, than the intrinsic merits of the picture would claim as a work of art. It is full of life and movement, however, and undoubtedly good. Mrs. Lindsay's portrait of Mrs. Ebkine, hard perhaps but full of vigour and strength, with a boldness in coloration that is not unpleasing; Mr. Ker's Rainy Day in Calcutta, a delightfully truthful sketch of Old Court House Street that all Calcuttaites will appreciate; Mr. G. F. Lamb's Kinchinjunga Sunrise, which has caught the wonderful pink light on the Darjiling snows that no one who has once seen it forgets; Mr. G. A. Anderson's Light Horse Camp in Calcutta, a misty morning with the Cathedral in the background and Major Eddis and his men parading in front of the Serpentine tank on the maidan, crisp effect and true to life; Captain Oldfield's Buddhist Monastery, Srinagar, a bold bit of work simple and good. The list is too long to complete. It may be rounded off by mention of works like Mrs. Macdonald's charming croyon sketch of a girl in Greek costume, Miss Clarkes meritorious study in charcoal of transparent water and soft drooping foliage, and Major Hobdays capital monochrome series of Buner sketches, which are all good of their kind.

Space does not admit my doing more than name the pleasant dance at Viceregal Lodge last Thursday night, and the Kriegspiciel at the United Service Institute on Saturday, which are both to be reckoned amongst the notable events of the past week.

THE IN-COMING MAIL.

THE following is a list of passengers per s. s Carthage, expected to arrive in Bombay at daylight on Saturday next:—

Adame, Capt R B	Kettlewell, Mr A B
Arthur, Mr A	Kraaig, Mr C
Aspinall, Mr J	Lavilie, Mr L T
Atkinson, Mr G L	Lewis, Capt
Banerjee, Mr and Mrs	Macdonnald, Mr
Beaver, Col P K L	McQuillam, Mr J
Burn, Col A	Middleton, Mr R P
Buckle, Mr A S	Middleton, Mr P
Cameron, Rev J M	Milne, Mrs
Chadwick, Mr	Morgan, Mr D
Chaldecott, Mr H D	Morris, Mr W
Chapman, Mrs	Murray, Mr W
Climie, Mr	Newman, L C R
Coats, Lt Col J H B and Mrs	Noble, Capt J
Cooke Hule, Capt C F	Oliver, Mr
Croie, Mrs	Penning, Mr W M
Cunliffe, Major	Penton, Mrs
Dale, Mr A T	Platt, Mr S C
Dayal, Mr D	Roper, Lt R T
Dealy, Capt	Sangster, Mr W P
De Perie, Lt H C	Sevastopulo, Mr
Emslie, Mr J	Spencer, Mr P Y and Mrs
Fraser, Mr A L	Stuart, Mr and Mrs H A
Garland, Maj E A	Sucle, Mr A S
Gaulles, Mr A	Sweeney, Surg Major
Gebbie, Mr F S J	Talbot, Mr G W
Gotto, Mr H R	Taylor, Mr D and Mrs
Grant, Miss	Temple, Mr John
Green, Lt E H L	Ternan, Lt Col T
Holloway, Maj J S	Thomson, Mrs and infant
Ikehara, Mr T	Walker, Lt W A S
Jones, Mr J	Wilson, Lt Col W P
Jones, Mr R T	Wright, Mr A W

THERMOMETER READINGS.

SUNDAY NIGHT—AUGUST 21.

10 p.m.	80·3
MONDAY—AUGUST 22.	
6 a.m.	78·6
10 a.m.	82·6
2 p.m.	84·9
4 p.m.	82·6

MR. COBBOLD'S ADVENTURES IN CENTRAL ASIA.

THE following account of Mr. Cobbold's journey which ended in his arrest at Kila Wamar on the Oxus, was specially written for the *Pioneer*:—

Mr. Cobbold left Srinagar on September 15th last in company with Captain Deasy, and travelling by way of Gilgit and Kunjut arrived on the Taghdumbash Pamir in a month or so. The Kunjut river was then falling rapidly. No difficulties were experienced on their way. After shooting a number of Ovis Poli the travellers separated, Captain Deasy going towards Raskam, whilst Mr. Cobbold passed on by the Mustagh Ata and the Gez defile, arriving in Kashgar in December and spending Christmas with Mr. Macartney, the British Agent stationed there.

After resting a month Mr. Cobbold crossed the Thian Shan mountains by way of Akbashi and Naryn and descended on to the steppes at Viernoye in Southern Siberia. The Great snowfall had not come, and he made the passage of the various ranges included in the name Thian Shan without serious difficulty. The Russians do not allow their passes to be closed by the winter snowfall, and have erected galvanised iron shedding on strong supports in any pass of importance. The Indian Government might adopt this idea for the Kashmir road. After a few days in Viernoye Mr. Cobbold tried an excursion into the mountains between Viernoye and Lake Issyk Kul to try and shoot the great stag of the Shian Shan (which resembles much the American Wapite), but was driven back by a fall of snow.

Returning to Niernoye he went to Hinsk some 70 miles off, and followed the Ili River down to Lake Balkash, hoping to shoot a

LONG-HAIRED TIGER,

but did not succeed owing to the dence and noisy reed jungle and the number of wild boars, which gave the tigers lots of food and which they preferred to animals tied up. This lake has, we believed, never been visited before by an Englishman or indeed by any other than, very rarely, a Russian official. At Balkash there are rich deposits of tin. The local Kirghiz are a wild lawless lot, and they and the Cossack escort with Mr. Cobbold were continually fighting. The latter could not understand his insisting on payment for transport and supplies to the natives, as they said it was not the Russian custom. However payment was made, and the Kirghiz thus got a favourable impression of the first "Ferang" they had ever seen. The cold was excessive —30° below zero at times.

After spending a month near Lake Balkash the traveller returned to Viernoye and applied through the Governor for a permission again to visit the Russian Pamir, and this he obtained through the kindness of Baron Wrewsky, the then Governor-General of Turkestan. Armed with this passport Mr. Cobbold recrossed the Thian Shan to Kashgar, paying a visit to Lake Issy Kul on the way, in the neighbourhood of which he procured numerous specimens of ore and quartz showing gold, siver, copper and iron freely. This Alan Tau range possesses inexhaustible richness in mineral, but the Russians, though they are quite aware of it, have not the enterprise or money to develop them, and they take care that nobody but a Russian shall have any chance of exploiting the country. In this region there is also

A MOUNTAIN OF LIQUID WAX

and any quantity of coal, he nearest rail is some 700 versts away, at Tashkent. Mr. Cobbold reached Kashgar again in the beginning of April and commenced preparing for his Pamir trip. He incidentally learned that during his absence M. Petrovsky, the Russian Consul-General, had been spreading many ridiculous rumours about him to the effect that he was really a spy and a secret agent of the Indian Government in disguise as a traveller. The fact that he knew Mr. Cobbold had been in the Army seems to have aroused his suspicions, and he had informed his Government in St. Petersburg, and also the officials in Berghana of the opinions which he held. When questioned on the subject he admitted that at first he had supposed Mr. Cobbold to be a secret agent of Government, and when asked why, he replied that in Sir Charles Macgregor's book advice was given to British officers to travel and spy out Russian territory and ingratiate themselves with the natives and that as Macgregor was an official in a very high position in India, this book had been got hold of by Russian Frontier officials as they considered it represented the views of the Indian Government, M. Petrowsky, however, added that he no longer

IMAGINED THE TRAVELLER TO BE A SPY,

and professed himself in most amicable terms. Mr. Cobbold left Kashgar on May 5th and travelled up the Gez defile into the Pamir with 12 ponies. From Bordeu, travelling north-west, he proceeded up the Kuntemis Valley and attempted to cross the Karart Pass to the basin of the Kara Kul; but there was too much snow, the pass being a very lofty one —15,800 feet. He had therefore to find a round-about way not marked on the map, by a place called Kumbel, whence he crossed a pass of the same name and descended to the valley of the river known as the Mashum Su, following down which two days he came out opposite Kara Saz, about three miles from the foot of the Kizil Art Pass. From here he turned south, and passed by Karakul Lake when the ice was just breaking up. A Kirghiz whom he had picked up at Kumbel as a "shikari," a Russian subject, told him that the best place for large Ovis Poli on the whole Pamir was in the nullahs of Kokui Bei and Kok Jar, which will be seen on the map to the S.-W. of Karakul, so he took his advice and went to these places, where he had fair sport, shooting a dozen fair heads. But many thousands have died of disease during the past winter, and there are but few left now. Mr. Cobbold counted 500 dead in the nullah.

At Kok Jar Mr. Cobbold had an accident in a river with a pony, and lost much of his grain and flour. He was thus

IN DIFFICULTIES,

as to go all the way back to Murghabi via Karakul would have meant a fortnight's march, and he had not enough flour to last out. This plan then was clearly impossible. The Kirghiz advised him to make for Tashkurgan on the Murghab, where there was a village and where supplies of sorts could be got. He took their advice, followed the Thanwas River down to Kudara, where it is joined by the Kudara stream, and thence in a couple of days reached Tashkurgan. This district is very inaccurately mapped, and Mr. Cobbold hopes to be able to correct some of the errors. At Tashkurgan the Murghab River joins an enormous mass of water coming down a defile a few yards wide. From this point, or rather from Kok Jar, he left the land of the Kirghiz behind and came amongst Tajiks, a people resembling precisely the Kunjutis above Hunza in their language, looks, clothes, &c. They are all of Wakhi descent and a pleasant friendly people.

It had been Mr. Cobbold's intention to cross the Marjanal Pass on to the Alichur Pamir from Tashkurgan, or rather Saraz, and make his way to the Great Pamir and thence to Chitral, but again his plans were frustrated, as the Marjanal was quite impracticable. There was nothing to be done but to make for Kila-i-Wamar on the Oxus. The Tajiks stated that there were villages all the way at intervals, and that in the Oxus he could get all he wanted, and could then follow the Oxus up to Shignan, whence he could either ascend to the Great Pamir by the Ghund Darn or Shak Darn, whichever he chose, or if he preferred, and was allowed, could follow the Panjah up to Langar Kisht and cross the Hindu Kush to Chitral.

The village headman at Tashkurgan was extremely obliging, and there too Mr. Cobbold was joined by the Mimbashi of Roshan, a large village just below Tashkurgan. This Mimbashi was

FORMERLY AN IMPORTANT PERSONAGE IN ROSHAN,

for it was he and his father who invited the Russians originally to occupy Roshan and Shignan, showing them the road and helping them in every way possible. Now they bitterly regret their move, for their present state is worse than it was under the Afghans. It was entirely owing to the "zulm" of the officials of the Amir that the Russians were invited by these Tajiks to occupy these valleys but they now openly say that they are much worse off than they were before, and talk of a wholesale emigration to Ferangistan, meaning Chitral and the neighbourhood, unless something turns up and the Russians retire. The Mimbashi had just been doing two month's hard labour in the prison at Murghabi on a charge of sending information of Russian movements to India, and he was very angry about it, as the charge was quite false. Formerly he and his family had been Rajas of the whole Bartang valley between Tashkurgan and Kila-i-Wamar, but the Russians had clipped his wings, and handed the valley over to the Bokharans.

The length of road, between Tashkurgan and Kila-i-Wamar was only roughly 50 miles, but Mr. Cobbold found it the worst he had ever seen in any country. The Murghab, or as it is locally called the Bartang, is a big and rapid river, and the mountains rise quite sheer from it to enormous heights. The Tajiks said it was quite impossible to take ponies down, but the traveller decided to chance it anyhow. The ponies accordingly accompanied the party unloaded; of course.

The winter road along the river bed is good enough but no one goes in summer unless compelled to do so, not even the natives themselves. The last time ponies had come down was shortly after the occupation of the Punjab by the Russians, and General Unif made a journey down the Bartang, but 15 out of his 20 ponies fell over a precipice just below Roshar village and were of course dashed to pieces, so he retired. There are pretty little green villages every six or seven miles, and coolies are taken in from village to village in many places where the Paris are impossible; the baggage is put on a raft of goat skins and taken across to the opposite side. This is by no means a safe business, as it is difficult to find a level stretch of water, all being broken up by rapids and huge boulders. The noise of the water prevents one hearing anything whenever the valley narrows. There is no attempt in many places to build galleries out from the cliffs, the Tajiks confining their attempts at road-making to

LAING A LOG ACROSS A CHASM

which the traveller has to swarm over as best he can: even shikar dogs have to be carried, so the badness of the road can be imagined. A special correspondent of the London "Morning Post" stated a short time ago that the Russians were going to make this route their main way to the Panjab, and build a large post at Tashkurgman, &c. This correspondent must have very badly informed: there is no idea of such an impracticable scheme, the Russian road from Murghabi to Shignan being a very fair one.

The ponies Mr. Cobbold took with him had to swim the river 20 times in the 50 miles, and were most of them much knocked about, lamed and cut by the boulders. However the local people were delighted to see an Englishman, and gave every assistance. They said that ten years ago an Englishman had visited Shignan and Roshan in the time of the Afghans; and that he had left an excellent impression behind him was evident. These people have a great deal of intercourse with the Chitralis, and hear much about Englishmen. Many of them have been to Chitral, and once or twice Mr. Cobbold found men understanding Hindustan. It took him a week to get to Kila-i-Wamar. Although travelling from before down to night seven miles a day was all that could be accomplished, so terrible is the defile. Just above Kil-i-Wamar is Yaims, where the Russians and Afghans had

A SKIRMISH SOME FOUR YEARS AGO.

Fifteen Cossacks and an officer were coming down the Bartang in winter with the Mimbashi before mentioned and there were 20 Afghan sepoys at Yaims. They fired on each other without anyone being hit, and then the Russians retired up the Bartang and crossed into Darwaz. The Afghans a few months later crossed the Panjah. Then when the Russians came again in a short time with more Cossacks there was no opposition. The Russians administered Roshan, Shignan, and Wakhan for a year, after which time they handed them over to the Amir of Bokhara on the condition that no taxes were levied on the people for a period of three years. Of this period 2 1-4 years have now expired, and how the Tajiks will fare at the end of six months no one knows. The same conditions appertain in these valleys as are found in Kunjut; the cultivation does not suffice for the increasing population, swollen as it is by Tajiks deserting from the Afghan side in large numbers, and so long as no taxes are levied this emigration will continue. Roshan, Shignan, Wakhan contain about two thousand houses, and these might be taken as holding on a average 8 to 10 persons to a house Mr. Cobbold took 20 houses at random, and found their inmates to average this number. The people are Wakhis and undoubtedly of Persian origin.

(To be concluded.)

THE CITY MORTALITY.

THE Municipal Office returns for the twenty-four hours ending 6 a.m., yesterday, give the following results:—

Wards.	Plague Attacks.	Plague Deaths.	Deaths from all Causes.
A Upper, Middle and Lower Colaba, Fort Southern, Fort Northern and Esplanade....	0	1	7
B Mandvi, Chukla, Umarkhadi and Dongri	10	6	26
C Market, Dhobi Talao, Fanaswadi, Bhuleshwar, Khara Talao and Kumbharwada	5	3	17
D Khetwadi, Girgaum, Chowpatty, Walkeshwar and Mahaluxmi	3	0	5
E Mazagon, Tardeo, 2nd Nagpada, Kamatipura, Tardeo, Byculla and 1st Nagpada.....	9	1	16
F Parel, Sewree and Sion ...	0	0	6
G Mahim and Worlee ...	0	0	7
Water Division.....	0	0	0
Non-resident and unknown...	1*	0	1
Hospitals.....	0	17	29
Total.....	28	28	114
Total plague deaths to date.....	31,183	26,772	
Same date last year...	2	0	112

* Found on road, dead in A Ward.

CHOLERA.

Attack.....	0
Deaths	1

Mr. H. S. Smith of the Elphinstone Circle was, on Sunday last conveyed to the St. George's Hospital, suffering from plague.

MEETING OF THE TARDEO COMMITTEE.

A Meeting of the Local Volunteer Committee of District No. VI "C" ward west was held in general offices (Grant Road Hospital), Lieut. W. C. French District Officer presided. President read a weekly report which showed more plague cases then those of the preceeding weeks, and he pointed out that it was necessary for the members to work jointly and if any assistance from him was required he was very willing to render it at any time, he also pointed out that some of the lanes at Cummatepora show signs of breaking out into plague of a severe tipe, and consequently special attention was necessary on those localities. A certain Mahomedan gentleman from Hoozaria Street wishing to proceed up country with his family was asked by a sectional medical officer to bring the lady members of his family into the hospital to undergo medical examination, to that course the gentleman objected on the ground, that they were Pardha ladies. The point was referred to the District Officer who was told by the members that in such cases a Lady Doctor was essential. The District Officer said that he had already written to the Commissioner regarding a Lady Doctor, and he would remind him again.

CASE ON A STEAMER AT COLOMBO.

A Colombo telegram says: The P. and O. s.s. Ballaarat, which arrived there from Bombay on Saturday morning, reported a case of plague on board. The Port Surgeon boarded the vessel immediately and found a serang's servant ill. The symptoms were not sufficiently developed to be pronounced a true case of plague, though of a very suspicious character. The vessel was at once placed in the outermost anchorage and no communication was allowed between the ship and the shore. Galle having been made Ceylon's quarantine port, the vessels was at once ordered to proceed thither, which the Ballaarat did at full speed the same evening. The vessel reached Galle at dawn on Sunday. The plague officers there were instructed from Colombo to be in readiness to meet the patient, who was conveyed from the steamer by boat to a specially erected plague hospital. The steamer, having dropped the patient, proceeded with the mails to China. The servant complained of feeling ill soon after getting aboard at Bombay, but no suspicious symptoms appeared till near Colombo. He died on Sunday night.

PRESIDENCY PLAGUE MORTALITY.

THE cases of plague and deaths therefrom reported to the Bombay Government during the week ending August 19th, were as under:—

Cities.	Cases.	Deaths.
Bombay.....	114	118
Karachi.....	9	5
Poona	2	4
Districts.		
Kaira.....	2	1
Broach	36	30
Surat	79	60
Thana.....	291	235
Nasik	68	38
Satara	124	76
Sholapur	56	44
Belgaum	589	437
Dharwar	818	680
Political Agencies.		
Baroda	89	58
Kathiawar	109	81
Kolhapur	105	97
Cutch	36	22
Sachin	3	4
Akalkot.....	20	9
Bhor State	41	35
Total.....	2,051	2,055

The total mortality to date is as follows:—

Deaths previously reported	96,213
Deaths week ending August 19..	2,055
Total to date	98,268

The mortality in the week ended August 12 was 1,510, and in that ended August 1,051.

DEATH OF A MILITARY OFFICER.

LIEUTENANT J. T. FERRIS, of the 2nd Central India Horse, died at an early hour yesterday morning while *en route* to Bombay from Ahmedabad. He had been ill from fever for some days at Sadra, and his father, Colonel Ferris, Political Agent, Mahi Kaneta, and his cousin, Captain Tritton, were bringing him to Bombay for admission into St. George's Hospital. The symptoms were of enteric, and soon after the train had left Surat syncope supervened, and Lieutenant Ferris died almost instantly. The body was brought on in the train to the Colaba Terminus, from whence it was removed to the residence of Captain Tritton near the Apollo Bunder. Lieutenant Ferris who was only 22 years of age, was Captain of the Harrow Cricket eleven when at that school, and was one of the best cricketers in India. The funeral will leave the residence of Captain Tritton at 5-30 a.m. this morning, arriving at Sewri at 7 o'clock. The 21st Bombay Infantry will furnish the firing party.

NIGHT ATTACK ON THE NASIK DACOITS.

GALLANTRY OF THE POLICE.

TWELVE OF THE GANG OF FIFTEEN KILLED OR CAPTURED.

THE following is the official correspondence respecting the encounter between the Police and the Chimnya's gang on the night of the 6th and 7th August:—

From the District Superintendent of Police, Nasik to the Inspector-General of Police, Poona, Camp Chaminmal.

Sir,—I have the honor to inform you that news reached me at Vaghad yesterday at 1 p. m. (on my return from Peint, where I had gone to make arrangements about housing a detachment of the military shortly expected) of an attack by the police on Chimnya's gang. Immediately on receipt of the report I proceeded to the spot, accompanied by my Assistant Mr. Greenaway, reaching Chaminmal (the village) at about 7-30 the following morning. The distance to Chaminmal is 40 miles approximately through the hills, and the country being practically under water, in places impassible even for horses, the journey was necessarily somewhat slow. The following is a brief account of what occurred:—

The party of specially selected men under acting Inspector Yeshwant Mahadeo (I had recently appointed to act as a sort of flying column against Chimnya) received information at about 1 a. m. (6th instant) that the gang was located at a village (Chaminmal) about 11 miles distant high up in the midst of the hills. Acting on this information the Inspector and his party proceeded with all possible despatch to the spot. The village (which consists of about a dozen huts) is entirely surrounded by thick forest and hills evidently selected by the gang as being peculiarly different of access. The dacoits had occupied a large hut; and had taken precaution to post sentries outside, and were apparently engaged in celebrating with music their recent success against the police. The Inspector dividing his men into two parties approached the village, his movements being facilitated by the rain and heavy clouds. The sentries were evidently on the alert, and immediately on catching sight of our men (who had crept up to within 15 yards of the huts) a signal was given, and they were received by a volley, resulting in two sepoys being killed. The gang was armed with sniders and guns recently captured from our police, and those of Dharampore State. The engagement then became general during which the Inspector had his right hand injured by a bullet, and the sleeve of his coat shot through, the hilt of his sword being also struck by a bullet. Two sepoys were more or less severely wounded. They were personally attended to by me the Hospital Assistant for whom I had sent not having arrived. The police finding that the dacoits were firing under cover succeeded in rushing the position and in killing and capturing twelve of the gang. The regular members of the gang numbered 15, and included all those who recently escaped from police custody at Chandore and Nasik. Owing to the smoke from the firing, darkness of the night and confusion, proximity of the jungle, etc., I regret to have to report that the remainder of the gang succeeded in effecting their escape. Amongst them being Chimnya, who is reported to have been wounded, one of his garments having been found by a search party in the morning at a distance from the village smeared with blood and 2 bullet holes. From the position of these holes it is apparent that the wearer must have been wounded in the shoulder. Others who escaped are also apparently wounded, two having been brought in by search parties. Among the dead and wounded are Chimnya's two lieutenants—Budya and Aba, while Mahadeo, also an important member, has been taken unhurt.

The following are the members of killed, wounded or taken:—

Killed 6, including 2 villagers who were present on the occasion and who had been catering for the gang during the fight and confusion it was impossible to distinguish the dacoits from those in their company.

Wounded 4 (one mortally, since dead) captured unhurt 2 (one of whom was Mahadeo). On one side I regret to have to report the death of two sepoys, one of whom although severely wounded in the side by slugs continued to fight, succumbing eventually to his wound. The Inspector and one sepoy wounded severely.

The following is a rough list of articles recovered.

Police sniders 6, also belts, uniform, bayonets, etc. Dharampore police guns 5, belts, uniform bayonets, etc. Swords 14, with a quantity of regulation and country ammunition.

A large quantity of gold and silver ornaments (each killed wearing heavy wristlets, etc.,) silks, etc., evidently taken from the Marwadis.

I cannot conclude this report without bringing to your notice the behaviour, energy and pluck of the acting Inspector, Yeshwant Mahadeo (who had been specially selected for this duty) throughout the whole affair, the very fact of his coming up with the gang at all, considering the country and conditions is worthy of note. The behaviour of the men too was unexceptionable and it speaks volumes for their zeal and caution that they succeeded in actually entering the outskirts of the village without a hint of their presence being known until the first shot was fired. It is of course to be regretted that Chimnya himself got away, but I am very hopeful that if he has not succumbed to his wounds, supposing the report of his being wounded to be true, he will shortly be apprehended. The gang may now be said to be practically broken up and the lesson administered by the police will be a very salutory one. The affair has caused an immense stir in the neighbourhood, information already being tendered more freely. The gang was an extremely daring one and a terror to the whole of the locality. Peint, Nasik and Dhindori) . . . . . —I have, &c.,

(Sd). D. Davis,
District Supdt. of Police, Nasik.

P.S.—I attach a rough sketch of the village where the attack took place.

No. 7815 of 1898.

Nasik, 10th August, 1898.

Forwarded with compliments. The sketch accompanies.

This report reached the undersigned last night and this morning he has had an interview with Mr. Davis. That officer states that another wounded docoit has been arrested, being given up by the residents of the village where he had taken refuge . . .

3. The undersigned cannot refrain from recording his admiration of the gallantry displayed by the police in this encounter.

To rush a hut defended by a score or so of desperadoes armed with breach loaders and fighting for their lives argues a courage and determination which would do credit to regular troops. Especial attention is invited to the skill and caution with which acting Inspector Yeshwant Mahadeo conducted the approach and the bravery with which he led the charge. Besides bring wounded by a bullet in the hand he received a bullet through his sleeve and another in his sword hilt. . . . . .

(Sd.) R. A. L. MOORE,
District Magistrate, Nasik.

No. 7128 dated 12th August 1898.

From the Inspector-General of Police, Poona, To The Secretary to Government, Judicial Department.

Sir,—In continuation of previous correspondence on the subject of the Koli dacoities, I have the honor to submit for the information of Government attached copy of a report received from the Superintendent of Police, Nasik, with endorsement by the District Magistrate regarding the operations of the Nasik Police against Chimnya's gang.

2. From Mr. Davis' report it will be seen that the attack on Chimnya's gang by the Police at the village of Chaminmal resulted in twelve of Chimnya's gang of 15 being either killed or captured; Chimna himself escaped but the fact that one of his garments has been found stained with blood and with two bullet holes through it would indicate that he has been badly wounded. Six sniders, 5 guns and 14 swords with ammunition, uniform, bayonets, etc., recovered, besides a large quantity of loot and Chimnya's note-book giving names of villages and people who have supplied provisions and otherwise aided the gang.

3. I regret to say that in effecting this very successful capture, two police constables were killed and the inspector and one constable severely wounded.

4. The manner in which the attack was planned and successfully carried out in the face of considerable difficulties was, I am of opinion, most creditable to the police party under the leadership of the acting Inspector Yeshwant Mahadeo.—I have, etc.

(Sd). J. E. DOWN,
Acting Inspector-General of Police.

THE BHULESHWAR MURDER.

MR. R. H. VINCENT, C. I. E., the Commissioner of Police, has under his signature, issued hand bills printed in vernacular

Yeshwant Mahadeo who was struck by three bullets in the encounter, eleven police attacked a body of fifteen dacoits who had taken up their position in a hut and had sentries on the lookout. Of this party though with a loss I am sorry to say of 2 sepoys killed, they killed 4 wounded or captured 12 and the rest of the party including Chimnya the leader have since been accounted for. That the dacoits were well armed is sufficiently established from the fact that 11 guns and 14 swords were seized. I am glad to have an opportunity of publicly expressing the appreciation of Government of such good work, and I think Hon'ble members will allow that very great credit is due to the police concerned other incidents of similar good conduct have already been noticed in the public press; and if the maxim to which I have earlier alluded is to be adopted, I hope that Honourable members will be prepared henceforth to look upon the Police of this Presidency as an immaculate body deserving of all praise.

THE MODIFICATION OF PLAGUE RULES IN BOMBAY.

Turning now to the subject of Plague, I think I may say that the two main interests or factors that have prompted and governed our plague policy have been humanity and commerce. And the same factors may equitably determine the dividing line between expenditure which should be met locally and expenditure which should be met by the State, though as I shall presently show any dividing line of the kind is in my opinion a matter of purely academic interest. No civilized Government can dissociate itself from the responsibility of alleviating suffering and reducing mortality. With no previous experience of the best means of combating the epidemic the only course was to rely on the experience of others gained elsewhere and to trust to the advice of experts. And it cannot be doubted that where local circumstances permitted measures of evacuation and segregation to be carried out with the necessary degree of completeness and where there has been an agency available and adequate for carrying out these measures, it cannot be doubted I say that these measures have (in the opinion of those best able to judge) been distinctly successful. Experience however has shown that in other places, especially in large cities in India where the epidemic has once gained a hold, local conditions require that the scheme of operations must be very considerably modified and that there may be evils more than counterbalancing the advantages to be derived from drastic measures. I for one agree with what fell from a previous speaker, namely that in Bombay alarm tended to increase the mortality and also tended to increase the concealment of cases, and the reluctance, which always exists more or less in this country, to call in medical advice. A very probable consequence of such concealment and reluctance is an increase in the virulence of the disease. What precise modifications should be introduced for the next campaign, if unfortunately there should be another campaign, is a matter now engaging your Excellency's earnest attention. Then as regard commerce the idea to which first prevailed have undergone no little modification for undoubtedly the great I may say, the sole apprehension was that foreign continental ports might, unless certain measures were strictly enforced, be closed to Bombay Trade. Now Bombay Trade which is the trade not of Bombay only but of India, is an Imperial question. But events have taught us that there will be little benefit to the trade of Bombay in keeping open the door of Foreign Ports, if on the other hand our anti-plague measures are driving away from Bombay the capitalists agents and middlemen without whom business cannot be carried on and who to carry on that business must not be fettered in going to and fro between Bombay and their up country constituents. No relaxation however can be permitted regard to the measures for safe guarding ocean going ships from infection, measures which have been most strict and successful thanks to the admirable way in which they have been carried out by Doctors MacCarthy, Crimmin and Sellers. I have said that in my opinion the question of the distribution of the incidence of expenditure between the local body and the State is little better than an academic one, and I must explain my meaning. The experts who have advised certain measures of what I may call an ephemeral character for combating plague have insisted even more strenuously on the necessity of permanent sanitary improvement. If plague is not continually to recur. There is no much expenditure to be incurred, that Hon'ble members who have pressed us to urge Imperial responsibility will be the first to see that whatever burdens the State may undertake local resources must be strained to the utmost and will I doubt not be the first to use their influence in fully developing these resources. Given then the hypothesis that these resources will be strained to their utmost capacity and that permanent sanitary improvement or of no less importance than mere ephemeral measures of protection and that the total expenditure on both combined cannot be met without Imperial assistance, the true measure of that assistance must be determined not by this or that head of charge but by the difference between local needs and local resources when both have been carefully scrutinized. No Government would desire to impose entire responsibility for expenditure on measures of a temporary character if in so doing it precluded all possibity of undertaking sanitary improvements of a permanent character which it recognized as absolutely necessary.

WAS THE PLAGUE COMMITTEE EXTRAVAGANT?

I now have to say a word or two on the allusions to the management of plague measures in the City of Bombay in particular. Exception was taken to the phrase "dual control" and "dual agency" more correctly represents what I have no doubt was the Hon'ble member's meaning. Dual agency, however unavoidable to begin with, certainly occasioned friction and I cannot but regard its abolition as an improvement. The executive control, now rests with the Municipal Commissioner who is now practicelly in the same position as he would be in the exercise of special powers under section 434 of the Municipal Act, the purpose of which is to constitute a kind of dictatorship when the city is threatened with a serious epidemic. Setting financial considerations aside, and I quite admitting that it is an important aside (but I have already touched on financial responsibility) I cannot see what restriction has been placed on the exercise by the Municipality of its constitutional powers and privileges: certainly it was not the intention of Government to make any reflection or to cast any slur on that body, which has met every demand made upon it. As to the work of the Plague Committee I think I heard an Hon'ble member use the words "reckless if not criminal." That is strong language, but I think I may say that if in carrying out the measures which Government considered necessary any of their agents incurred unjustifiable expenditure which it is reasonable to suppose that municipal agents would not have incurred if they had been charged with the execution of the same measures, I say that if this can be established, and I have advisedly used precise terms, Government will not expect such unwarranted expenditure to be ultimately borne by the local body. But it must be remembered that sudden demands on a large scale make high prices, as probably Hon'ble Members' friends in Bombay who have benefited by commissariat contracts entered into during the emergency of the preparations for a campaign, may be able to tell them. If when we talk of financial responsibilities it is just to put the campaign against plague on the same footing as a military campaign then the similie seems to me, that no such standard of cost for commodities supplied or services rendered must be that not of peace time, but of war time. The members of the Committee or their servants cannot, it is needless to say be held responsible for measures which they may have carried out by direction of Government. I know that an Hon'ble member has warned your Excellency that on the subject of Plague administration in Bombay city you will be condemned by the verdict of the future. It does not lie with mortals to say what the future may bring forth, but if prediction be permissible I venture to predict that the verdict of the future will be that in the face of unprecedented calamities (and those most intimately associated with you can best appreciate the difficulties with which you were confronted) that your Excellency acted with a courage, energy and self abnegation unsurpassed by any of your predecessors.

The Hon. Mr James at this stage supplemented the information he had given on the previous day respecting Poona Municipality by stating that Government had determined to increase the number of nominated members by 8, in order to assist the Municipality in improving the sanitation of the city.

A RETROSPECT OF PROVINCIAL FINANCES.

The Hon. Mr. James then said:—My Lord, I trust I shall have the indulgence of the Council in this, my first essay, to further explain our annual accounts, and reply to honourable members' criticisms and queries. Fate has, of late years, assigned to the Hon. Mr. Mehta and myself seats in another august assembly, where members do not rise to speak, but mostly read essays one-and-a-half-hour long each like a series of Scotch sermons. Extempore speaking in that other place is very rare. I trust, therefore, that the Council will excuse my having armed myself with copious notes, as it is difficult to keep all the figures in one's head.

When the Government of a large province, whose finances but two or three years ago were in so flourishing a condition that it had an annual balance of 40 lakhs, had suddenly fallen so low that last year it depended on a dole from the Government of India to prevent its putting up the shutters and going into the Insolvency Court, and when its power of usefulness or of forwarding the moral and material progress of the Presidency are (even if temporarily) absolutely crippled for want of funds, a short retrospect is desirable with a view to see the causes that have led to this state of affairs, and whether there be any remedy. I have, therefore, carefully examined the accounts since 1883-89, and the Council will, I daresay, be interested to hear the results. It must first be remembered that Bombay is considered one of those advanced and wealthy provinces on which the Government of India depends for contributions to increasing Imperial necessities at every return of the Provincial Settlement. The year 1888-89 was the second year of the fourth Provincial Settlement, and in the previous year the Government of India had cut from the Bombay Governments's assignment a sum of 32 lakhs a year, viz., one-third of the entire grant resumed from India altogether, so we contributed 110 lakhs during the contract. This was followed up in 1890-91 by the levy of a special benevolence on Bombay of 17 1-2 lakhs. But for that, had the money remained in the till, Bombay would have had a balance of 63 1-2 lakhs in that year. Again, in 1892, the contract was revised, and Bombay yielded on this occasion 13 lakhs a year out of 47 lakhs resumed from all provinces, or nearly one-third of all India's contributions for the second time. This meant 65 lakhs during the contract. The last contract has been continued during the present term without any deduction being made up to the present, though I think I am not revealing official secrets in saying that the Government of India would have liked to take in the same way, as on previous occasions, a further annual contribution of 10 lakhs. From 1888-89 to 1896-97 this Government's forecasts of revenue and expenditure were excellent. The surpluses for which they budgetted were all a great deal more than realised, being generally better than was expected by from 15 to 20 lakhs. The minimum fixed balance is 20 lakhs, and thus the Government had in hand for unforeseen emergencies a sum of 20 lakhs besides. The revenue was carefully supervised and collected, and rose from 388 lakhs in 1888-89 to (roughly) 423 lakhs in 1895-95, an increase of 35 lakhs, while the growth of our expenditure was restricted to 33 1-2 lakhs during the same period. The improvement in revenue enabled the Government to construct a Provincial Railway at a cost of 18 lakhs and a canal at a cost of 6 lakhs. The Government has also met (without assistance) increases in various items of expenditure which are entirely beyond their control, and for which no specific grant has been allowed. For instance, pensions which depend absolutely on the Civil Service Regulations rose from 14 1-4 lakhs to 17 3-4 lakhs, and Courts of Law (mainly owing to Exchange Compensation) from 43 1-2 to 40 1-2 lakhs. Other items on which our increased charges were incurred, are Forest Department reorganisation, 1 1-4 lakhs; interest, 1 lakh; general administration (improvement of Secretariats and the like), 1 lakh. The main cause of this last increase is the transfer of certain establishments from the Local to the Provincial Heads of Account, for which a corresponding allowance is made on the receipt side. Improved and extended Jail establishments, 1 lakh; police, 6 lakhs; medical (new hospitals and dispensaries, 2 1-2 lakhs; stationery and printing, 2 lakhs (which give a clue to the growth of official work); Railway maintenance, 1 1-4 lakhs; contributions (education, village-sanitation and water-supply), 3 lakhs. We have also had to pay something like 21 or 22 lakhs altogether for Exchange Compensation.

ESTIMATES VS. ACTUALS.

I have heard unfavourable comments made on the constant difference between our budgetted and our realised surplus. It would take far too long to dissect the figures of each year and shew how adjustments here, and delayed expenditure there, and unexpected windfalls in another place, have affected the revenue favourably. But I would remind the Council that under the Budget system revenues accruing during the year cannot be spent. Though the Bombay Government has ever been anxious not to retain needlessly large balances which might tempt the Government of India to reserve large sums at the periodical revisions of the Provincial Settlements or other emergencies, the drain on the balances estimated in the Budgets has, it must be admitted, not been fully availed of owing to one cause or another, except during years of agricultural distress and plague. Land Revenue estimates fluctuated owing to the vicissitude of the season in the Presidency proper and the inundations of the River Indus in Sind, an early or late crop making the cultivator pay the revenue instalments at dates not anticipated in the Budget or Revised Estimates. Enhanced Revenue under Revision Settlements, on the other hand, has not always been realised as estimated, owing to unavoidable delay in introducing the Settlements. Contract sales in the Abkari and Forest Departments have yielded an unexpectedly large revenue in the course of the year, while activity in trade and business, following a favourable rate of exchange, have increased the stamps or income-tax revenue, and windfalls of probate duty on the estates of deceased millionaires also suddenly add to the Stamp Revenue. The introduction of reorganisation schemes provided for in the Budget has been delayed pending mature deliberation and sanction by higher authorities. Orders enjoining strict economy in emergencies have checked the expenditure suddenly in the course of a year. And if the Bombay Government has realised larger surpluses than it expected (a consummation which I believe every financier devoutly desires), I find that other Local Governments have found the same difficulty as ourselves in working up to the Budget. A year or two ago an adjoining Presidency expected a balance of 22, and obtained one of 43 lakhs; a Presidency on the other side of India looked for 32 and obtained 58; and, indeed, it is not only the Provincial Governments that sin, if it be a sin to be careful and prudent, in under-estimating their surpluses. Some of us here are old enough to remember the Government of India finding it necessary to double the income-tax in the middle of the year while expenditure was rigidly contracted, but owing to favourable opium sales which could not be foreseen it was found that those emergent measures were premature. What opium is to India, the Sind is to this Presidency in a small way. In 1895, when my hon. colleague, Sir Charles Ollivant, was in Sind, the low river made a deficit of 20 lakhs of revenue in one year, and a surplus (which forms part of two financial years), the worst year for nearly a decade, and the revenue in the revenue year now current will be 30 lakhs higher. These fluctuations cannot be foreseen as they depend on the weather. I have been long enough in the service to remember at least three financial crises, when the Government of India stopped public works and pensioned off a large number of their Engineers and then had to send for a number more from home in the course of a year or two.

WHY THE REVENUE IMPROVED IN THE PAST.

The fact that our revenue improved so satisfactorily, and with it, of course, the revenue of the Government of India is (I think I can fairly claim) due in a great measure to the excellent administration of the land and also to the exertions of men like Sir Charles Pritchard, whose admirable Salt and Excise arrangements have added so greatly to the resources of this province. The Government of India take only the profits we make for them out of salt, and gives us only a quarter of the excise profits. Where the growth of the revenue is small or very precarious, say Forests for instance, the Government of India are (perhaps it is only human nature) much more liberal in the share they give.

Well, as new revenue grew we spent it is and how did we spend it? As I have already shown you, on the moral and material progress of the Presidency, and for the direction which moral and material progress should take we are not dependant on our own volition, so much as on the instructions of the Secretary of State, the Viceroy, and the various departments of the Government of India. Each Secretary of State each Viceroy, and each head of a department has his own views from time to time as to the direction in which expenditure is most necessary. For instance, the late Viceroy desired to see the status and pay, and consequently the efficiency, of the native police improved. The Bombay Government fully concurred in this, and has raised its expenditure by between 6 and 7 lakhs a year on improved pay and reorganisation, and even that is not enough, in my opinion. Then the Public Works Department of the Government of India expressed its amazement at so energetic a Government as ours not spending money on Provincial Railways, and we took away our reproach by constructing the Hyderabad-Shadipalli line costing 18 lakhs of rupees. Then excellent ladies like Miss Florence Nightingale, and the Army Sanitary Commission and the India Office, are extremely anxious about sanitation. Miss Nightingale—and I mention her name with the greatest respect—once proposed that Local Funds should be spent on the conservancy of villages rather than on roads and bridges and wells. So we passed a Village Sanitation Act, and that it might not be an absolute dead letter, we gave a little dole of Rs. 30,000 a year in tiny grants-in-aid (which were supplemented in years of full harvests by grants-in-aid of a lakh for village water-supply) spread over the whole Presidency, the grants-in-aid being limited to one-third of the cost of a well, or one-sixth to the cost of sanitary measures, the object being to check cholera and fever. Then the Government of Bombay itself, in the interests of the ryots who pay the land revenue, started grants for Veterinary Dispensaries to help the ryot to save his cattle, often the greater part of his wealth, from rinderpest and other diseases, and we spend the enormous sum of Rs. 10,000 a year upon them in the shape of grants-in-aid. We are training up Veterinary Hospital Assistants also, and one of these days we may see a Subordinate Veterinary Service throughout India as the result. The Bombay Government also paid attention to its public works, constructed roads in out-of-the-way places, often to bring forest produce to the market and also to feed the railways, and it substituted substantial buildings for the old mud kutcherries which had lasted since the Peshwa's time and were declared beyond repair.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS

And, of course, it paid attention to education. You well remember the great stimulus given to that kind of expenditure by Lord Ripon's Educational Commission about fifteen years ago, the conclusions of which were thoroughly overhauled by the Government of India and the Secretary of State and orders passed upon them. Sir James Ferguson's Government first laid down that the Government, which had been accustomed to make grants-in-aid previous to his time, should work up to paying one-third of the cost of municipal and local schools, and this was no doubt a most desirable end. Then came Lord Reay, expert educationalist, and chosen, I believe, partly an on that account, who at a very slight expense to the State induced the founding of a number of colleges and Madrassas and technical schools, mainly by stimulating the liberality and public spirit of local bodies and private individuals. Lord Harris and your Excellency's Government again have been warm friends of primary schools. Then Sir William Lee-Warner, who was one of the most able members of the Educational Commission, was himself Secretary in the Educational Department here for some years, and he took care that the educational policy of the Local Government followed the sanctioned lines. We had one small warning in 1892-93 that the Government of India in the Financial Department would not help with money for primary schools. In 1887-88 our contract allowance for contributions was Rs. 3,07,000, (not including a fixed contribution of 1 1-2 lakhs for excise revenue which we cannot alter), but at the end of the contract we were spending more. Nevertheless, the Financial Department said that these contributions were optional and refused to increase our allowance, which was then six lakhs, all included under this entire head, though we were then spending 8 lakhs. Although, therefore, the Government has been very careful in watching that expenditure, the sanctioned educational policy had led them in the last ten years to enhance the charge on account of their annual contributions by (allowing for a transfer made to another head) some two lakhs of rupees for which we had no adequate assignment. For the Educational Department proper our assignment in 1897-98 was Rs. 15 1-4 lakhs, more than half a lakh over our expenditure. In 1892-93 it was raised to 16 1-2 lakhs, the amount which we were then spending. But the expenditure has risen to a normal figure of 17 lakhs, irrespective of some special building grants in two of the later years, and for this again the Government of India allow us nothing. "Per contra" we can show savings effected under Education, which I need not enter into, though it is a proof of our determination to be careful and at the same time fearless and just, that we docked even that august body, that University of Bombay, of its annual grant, when we thought they could get on without it. I have heard it said that our educational expenditure has been too high, but can an increased recurring expenditure of about 2½ lakhs on education in nine or ten years be called extravagant? When we had funds we also aided local bodies in the construction of educational buildings. We spent 4½ lakhs on account in the five years ending 1898-97 and ¾ lakh a year in maintaining others, but the Government expenditure on the construction of educational buildings has dwindled down now to ½ lakh in 1897-98, and 1-4 lakh in 1898-99. Government also owes 3 lakhs or more of money promised as contributions to buildings, in some cases half, in others a quarter, or even less. My hon. friend, Mr. Giles, will correct me, but I think I know a case where Government contribute only one-eighth of the cost of an important building, indeed, I know of one case, in the city of Poona, about which a question was asked yesterday. Fortunately we were able to explain that various things for which we are not responsible, protect us from

A CHARGE OF ACTUAL MALVERSATION,

but as a matter of fact we provided for the expenditure of a contribution that has been paid to us in the Budget this year, and have since reappropriated it. And I am sure that my honourable friend, Mr. Moriarty, would not hold that we have really laid ourselves open to the criminal misappropriation clauses of the Indian Penal Code. It is a fact that a subscription of Rs. 17,000, which Government promised to double, has been credited in our revenues and swallowed up, and if we were asked to produce it, much less the corresponding grant promised, we could not do so, at any rate, at the present moment. And the way in which important Educational Institutions are hampered for want of the promised building grant-in-aid is very serious, as I know to my own cost, being President of the Sind Arts College Board.

I will now (at some risk of repeating some of what I said yesterday) tell you shortly in less technical language than the Budget (which I confess, what with adjustments, book entries, etc., is simply Greek to any one who is not shown his way through it, and even then Budget statements require to be perused with careful attention), I will tell you the immediate causes that have led the Government of Bombay in the last two years into its present desperate straits and to all the departments being cut down. I may say, to the bone, and to the Public Works allotment, almost the only head from which reductions can be made being diminished from an average of 36 lakhs from 1888-89 to 1895-96 to less the 27 lakhs (actuals) in 1896-97 and to 29 1-2 in the Budget, (which last figure is shortly, I fear, to be still further reduced), and consequently to our Engineers and their permanent subordinates eating their heads off, so to speak, and to the Civil establishments of the Government itself being now in some places so short-handed and so overworked (owing to our inability to give them the assistance which they need) that they cannot collect the Government of India's own revenue properly. It is, indeed sad to confess that the administration in parts of the Presidency is distinctly deteriorating, with the result that crime tends to increase and the revenue to suffer. It is popularly supposed that our financial straits are due to the famine, but this is not so, except indirectly. For the famine affected the labouring classes mostly, hitting only a very few of our sturdy ryots, whose power of resistance to famine has, I maintain, in spite of the opinion held by some honourable members, grown enormously since the last of 1876-77, as I can vouch from my personal observations in both famines. In other words, in spite of famine, we collected most of our land revenue, thanks to our excellent settlement system, while a large proportion of our poorer farmers were set on their legs by liberal grants of Takavi, and by the grants of seed and cattle from the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund. On the other hand, the Government of India was so good as to pay the whole of the direct famine charges, amounting to 1 crore and 23 lakhs. We have only had to spend Rs. 6,000 on a small local famine in 1891-93 (of course there was expenditure under other heads on this account, for instance, under P. W. D.) and 2 1-2 lakhs directly, on the great famine of 1897, though the extra police engaged, heavy compensation amounting to 6 1-2 lakhs (in 1896-97 and 1897-98), medical aid and other famine items were debited to us. These charges, however, we might easily have recovered from. They merely pulled down our surplus to its minimum.

OUR STRAITS ARE REALLY DUE TO THE PLAGUE.

In 1897-98 we opened the year with a balance in round figures of 18 lakhs, and as we were then in the midst of the famine which entailed, as I have said a considerable indirect outlay, we expected a closing balance of 5 lakhs, *i. e.*, 15 lakhs less than our minimum reserve. The Budget statement only gives the revised figures, that is to say, those made up after eleven months of the year have passed. I shall quote to you the approximate actuals, which have recently been obtained. Under some heads of revenue we made in 1897-98 3 lakhs more than we anticipated, but Forests, Stamps, Public Works Tolls, and other heads gave us a loss of 11 lakhs, ending in a net revenue of 8 lakhs, less than anticipated. This was just counterbalanced by our expenditure under some heads being less than that budgetted for by 8 lakhs as we stopped 2 1-2 lakhs alone under the head of Civil Public Works, and made other economies. Our balance, however, was entirely swallowed up by increased expenditure under other heads, amounting to 25 lakhs in all, "medical" alone contributing to this 18 lakhs on account of plague. Police cost 3 1-2 lakhs more, Jails 1 1-4 lakh. There were other minor increases in expenditure besides. We thus were 25 lakhs worse on the whole account. All our balance of 18 lakhs vanished, and if the Government of India had not given us some 6 or 7 lakhs (the exact figure has yet to be determined), we should have been bankrupt on 31st March last. Thus plague has been the real, or at any rate, the final, cause of our ruin so far. The Government of India kindly promised Rs. 9,90,000 to save us from a deficit, and it will be a small satisfaction to them to think that their grant will probably be reduced to less than six lakhs. In addition the Government of India gave us (see page 176 of Budget) a "provisional special adjustment" for 1897-98 of Rs. 2,48,000, because our share of certain heads of revenue was not likely to come up to the contract amount reckoned upon. In the final accounts, this adjustment may be increased, and the money towards the deficit still further diminished. But assuming for

own resources were being strained by the enormous cost of the famine, and a war following close in its heels.

I may notice here an error, a very natural one which the Hon'ble Mr. Parekh made when he pointed out the apparent reduction in "Contribution to education" in the Budget. As a matter of fact, the reduced grant is due merely to a transfer of Rs. 40,000 formerly debited a "Contribution" to another head of the Budget, and it appears on page 125. There has been no real reduction.

THE USE OF AGRICULTURAL LAND FOR BUILDING.

The Hon. Mr. Parekh is anxious that the rules under which agricultural land may be used for building should be modified. I did not gather precisely in what respect they are defective; but I know Ahmedabad very well, and even 10 or 11 years ago, mills were being constructed on agricultural land and only the other day the Government assented to some well considered proposals by the Collector, calculated to facilitate the extension of the town of Ahmedabad into the fields. I hope the arrangements of which the Collector with, I am sure, readily explain to him will meet with the hon. member's approval. He seemed to think that the Government levied from the Local Funds for the Account and other establishments entertained in Government offices a contribution in excess of the actual amount required. I think I can assure him that he is under an entire misapprehension, and in token of proving to him the scrupulous honesty of the Government, he will perceive on page 178 of the Budget an item of Rs. 3, being a refund of a contribution towards the Collector's Local Fund Establishment, an entry all to itself. The contribution, I may remark, includes a percentage for the leave allowances and pensions of the Local Fund establishments which are borne by Government.

The Hon. Mr. Mehta pounced on an item page at 107 of the Budget, viz., cost of Village Paggis in Sind. I beg to inform him that these useful persons are paid not from Local Funds as he understands them, but from a separate fund raised in Sind called the Village Cess Fund, such as exist in many other Provinces in India, for the employment and appointment of village accountants and village police. The item is properly debitable to that Village Cess Fund.

The Hon. Mr. Mehta's very clear summary of the history of our Provincial grants shows the care with which he has followed the fortunes of our Provincial finances and his jealousy for their welfare, which will be useful to me. But as we are dealing with the present, I think it is hardly necessary to go back beyond the period of 10 years, which I have already dealt with. Nor will I follow him into certain questions connected with the Municipality of Bombay on this occasion, in the first place because I am ignorant of their merits. The Hon. Mr. Mehta hon. friend, Sir Charles Ollivant has said everything that isneeded. He and another hon. member both referred to the inability of the Public Works Department to whitewash a college for want of means, and drew attention to the inconvenience caused to the Judges of the High Court for want of funds to make some new windows. I feel quite sure, however, that their Lordships would be willing to put up a little longer with the inconvenience which their predecessors have for years been able to endure, when they know how straitened our finances are; and as for the whitewash, I feel inclined to think that there must be some mistake, and at any rate my hon'ble friend, Mr. Thompson, will I have no doubt be able to provide some.

THE GROG SHOP AT MATHERAN.

The Hon'ble Mr. Mehta is also a little exercised about a grog shop at Matheran. I venture to think it is a little selfish on the part of the well-to-do visitors to the sanitarium to deprive the poor forest people and other natives who are unable to send to their wine merchants for spirits the chance of getting liquor in a climate so feverish as the forests around Matheran are at some seasons of the year. I venture to submit to the hon'ble members that a local matter of this kind is hardly worth discussion in this Council, and that the local officers who know thoroughly what the policy of the Government is in regard to liquor, must be trusted to exercise a wise discretion in the matter. The visitors to Matheran are not the only people who have to be considered. I feel certain at the same time that any inconvenience that may be caused to visitors by the appearance of tipsy men in the lonely roads, or any increase of crime, will be dealt with most firmly by the Superintendent and the District Magistrate and that those officers would gladly listen to any complaints a suggestions.

I notice with great pleasure the favourable criticisms passed on the famine policy of His Excellency and of my predecessor. I need not say anything further here except that I fully agree with them, from the observation I was able to make myself in another capacity. Suggestions have been made about rations and other famine matters. I would point out to the Hon'ble Mr. Khare that a Famine Commission has recently been sitting to enquire whether any improvements in the Famine Code are desirable, and I have no doubt that the point about rations, which has been the subject of great debate in the past, will have very full attention. I would point out also to Mr. Chandavarkar that liberal advances of tuccavi are of the greatest use in famine, as they mean that individuals with money are able to carry out many useful agricultural works, such as bunds or wells, which afford employment to the starving people of their villages, many of whom (as I have noticed myself in parts of India) prefer to remain at home in a semi-starved condition rather than go to a relief work at a distance. Thus, while the work is profitable to the person who undertakes it, the starved people obtain employment, and after the famine the tax-payer gets his money back.

The only other point I need notice in the hon'ble members' speeches, I think, is a suggestion from the Hon'ble Mr. Parekh that the Government of India should again be addressed with a view to allowing an anna on the rupee to be levied on Excise Revenue for the benefit of local bodies. There is, however, not the slightest hope of the Government of India agreeing to such a suggestion, and I hardly think it worth while raising the matter. Even if we got half the Imperial Revenues raised in the Presidency, as suggested by the same gentleman, it would do us very little good, because the Government of India look at the total grant which they give for Provincial Services, no matter from what source it is derived. And a share of a new sources of revenue would only mean reduction in the share of an old one.

That is all I have to say. I fear I have wearied your Lordship and the Council with these lengthy remarks. But if I have succeeded in making our financial position clearer, I trust that may be accepted as an excuse.

THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

His Excellency the Governor said:—There is a rule which says that the President of this assembly shall conclude the budget discussion, if he has any remarks to make. I can frankly say that I should best consult your convenience and my own, and leave nothing unsaid were I to sit perfectly silent upon the present occasion. It is not too much to say that the ground, and all the various points have, so far as in them lies, been perfectly covered and answered by my two honourable colleagues. We have a change in the financial member of this Government, and whilst we regret the absence of Mr. Nugent—who, I hope, will return in increased vigour and strength—we welcome Mr. James. Mr. James was once described by a high official of the Indian Government as one who came from "the deserts of Sind." Whether Sind is a perpetual desert or not others know better than I, but at any rate in the terrible troubles that have encompassed parts of Sind during the past two years, that country has shown itself singularly fertile in the fortitude and patience of its population. My honourable colleague has at length, but with not one excessive sentence, dealt with the Budget. A gloomy task, we are told, it has been, but gloomy as that task has been, he has been able to invest his statement in reply with a great deal of interest, and I cannot but think that as a record that statement will be of great use in future. I noticed one remark in the speech of the Hon. Mr. Mehta, who said that in regard to this Budget it was little use to weary the Council with lengthy and futile speeches. Well, I have listened to speeches now upon four such occasions, and I cannot say that I have ever been wearied with them, or that upon the present occasion I have found them futile in their character. It is true that I, like other people, in listening to speeches, prefer a speech of twenty minutes to one of an hour. In my own case I prefer to speak for ten minutes or less; but I can truly say that I have never gone away from this Council Chamber after our annual meeting without having picked up something from the members that may be of use in the future.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS IN BRITISH VS. NATIVE DISTRICTS.

One or two members referred to the educational question. I think it was the Hon. Mr. Parekh who drew a comparison between the education in the Northern Division and in the States of Kathiawar. I have made such inquires as I was able since we separated yesterday, and I will read you a memorandum in reply. I understood the Hon. Mr. Gokuldas Parekh say that whereas in 1892-93 and previous years the progress of education in British Districts of the Northern Division was equal to or more rapid then the progress of education in Kathiawar, the reverse was the fact in 1896-97. I have made enquiries and find that in 1896-97, in the British Districts of the Northern Division, 24·18 per cent. of the population of school-going age were at school, while for Kathiawar the figures were 20·44 per cent. The British Districts are, therefore, still much ahead of Kathiwar in this respect. The percentage of progress in 1896-97 was 5·4 for British Districts and 5·8 for Kathiwar. A fractional superiority lies with Kathiwar. The honourable member's criticism is so far correct, and the explanation of the more rapid progress of Kathiawar in late years may be (1) That in Kathiawar development has been later, and is still proceeding, while in British Districts we have reached, practically, the limits imposed by our finances, (2) That the allotments of Native States to education increase with the development of public spirit in the States, and that the funds available are not finite, as the cess receipts of a district are. (3) That as pointed out in para. 48 (page 28) of the Quinquennial review for 1896-97, the increase of salaries given to assistant teachers in British Districts of late years, with an irreducible minimum of Rs. 7 per mensum, has resulted in the closing of many small schools. The cry of "starvation salaries" was raised in 1893-94 by Mr. Hon. (then the Mr. Chimanlal Setalvad, and Government in G. R. No. 130 of June 5th, 1894, ruled that Rs. 7 should be regarded as an approved minimum salary for an assistant teacher in a primary school. The question how best to utilise our exiquous resources in the Districts will form one of the subjects of consideration at the conference of inspectors to be held in September. The Department has been forced to close schools in many places to provide for the increased expenditure necessitated by this ruling. In Kathiawar the example of generosity set by Government in the British Districts has not been followed, and assistant masters are to be found there on very small salaries. To prevent unnecessary alarm, I may add that such teachers ar usually young lads who have passed through the primary course, and who, while waiting for employment, and living in their own homes, are content to add something to the family income. Such lads also frequently earn a rupee or two more by helping the sons of well-to-do persons in their studies. The honorable member also complained of the reduction of the Provincial allotment to grants-in-aid in the Budget. This is due to the curtailment of the Building and appartus grants usually at Rs. 1,50,000. The annual grants for education have been fully maintained to schools already on the lists. The Chief of Ichalkaranji referred to another question. Inspectors have been instructed to treat all aided schools affected by plague with the utmost liberality, and to pass full grants where it is obvious that the managers of school have done their best under adverse circumstances, and have maintained their expenditure on the schools In regard to education the Hon. Mr. Mehta expressed a hope that there would be nothing of a reactionary character in the policy of the Government towards the University of Bombay. I have but to say that theGovernment would be the last to interfere unconstitutionally with the privileges or the prestige of the University, or to underrate or minimise its dignity or its usefulness. But under statute Government have certain duties of determining in any particular case, whether approval should or should not be accorded, and Government cannot divest themselves of this responsibility, nor can they be content to merely register decrees as to which considerable differences of opinion may exist.

OUR UBIQUITOUS ENEMY.

Last year I had to deal at some considerable length with the question of plague, but happily such a state of circumstances does not exist this year. Grave charges had then been brought forward. My lips for a long time had been obliged to remain closed; and it was the first opportunity I had of replying to the charges made as to the soldiers and their doings. I do not propose to say any thing more about this occasion, although some passing allusion has been made to it. I have nothing to add to, or retract from, the statement I made upon that occasion. My honourable friend, Mr Chandawarker has adopted, a phrase in regard to those unhappy proceedings and the mistakes that have been made the sense of which was let the dead bury their dead, and let us look forward everyone with courage to the future. At this time last year our ubiquetous enemy had already invested Kirkee, and it soon made its way back to Poona. Upon that occasion the disease was combatted with a great determination, but it was a long and weary battle, during which, as Government have already explained in reply to a question on the Poona Police, the patience and behaviour of the people of Poona was—it is not too strong word to use—exemplary. We must not forget however the two officers who had principal charge of the operations, Colonel O'Moore Creagh, V. C., and Surgeon Major Reade. There can be no question that the thoroughness and efficiency of the arrangements made by them, and the unfailing energy and patience with which they were carried out, combined with the fortitude and patience of the population, conduced to the very happy result that when Colonel Creagh went away it was with the gratitude and amidst the plaudits of all. In regard to this plague question, at the commencement of his speech the Hon. Mr. Parekh made a very sapient remark which came to this, that whilst he congratulated us upon the results of our famine policy he said that it was very true we had Famine Codes, and experiences of famine spread unhappily over a serious of years which had enabled us to improve our system until at any rate we knew what to do. But such is not the case in regard to plague We have had to get our experience as we went along, and I know that some experts have on certain points changed their views. More than that we have had to buy our experience at immense cost, and I hope other parts of India will profit by it, if, unhappily, they come to be attacked.

HIS EXCELLENCY'S PLAGUE POLICY.

With regard to Bombay, I would say that there can be no doubt. I have said it over and over again in reply to addresses when I have been visiting towns and affected localities—that the thing we must continue to do in regard to plague is to endeavour to enlist the people on our side. I have recently come across some lines which I think will be familiar to almost all the Council and which describe the feeling I have always tried to inculcate into all officers concerned with plague operations. These words are words put into the mouth of the Saviour by Milton:—

Yet hold it more humane more heavenly first
By winning words to conquer willing hearts
And make persuasion do the work of fear
At least to try, and teach the erring soul
Not willfully misdoing, but unaware misled; the stubborn only subdue.

No doubt I shall be told that in regard to plague hearts are not willing, and that winning words are not effective measures for getting rid of the disease; but my experience has led me to this conclusion, as I have no doubt it has many others that men are to be found with such power over others from the force of persuasion and from the manifestation of sympathy with them, that they can persuade people to move out of their houses and locomforms to regulations where others without persuasion and by the resort to more stringent measures only may fail.

THE WORK OF THE CIVIL SERVICE.

But it unhappily is a fact that one is not always provided with men possessing these invaluable and rare qualifications. The strain on every department has been so great, and I was rather surprised to hear the Hon. Mr Garud comment grudgingly upon the fact that a certain number of officers are upon furlough and upon leave. I do not think it is an exaggeration to say that for the past two years but for a month, or two, all leave has been closed except to those with a medical certificate, and the consequence of it has been that many officers have suffered severely in health. I cannot help regretting that the Government of India have taken the view that Secretariat officers should not be entitled to the special leave concession. Only those, I think, who have had tosit side by side with Secretariat officers during the prevalence of famine and plague can judge ofthe amount of work that has been done of the anxious moments and lengthy hours spent in the execution of their duties. And mind I do not limit my remarks what I may term the higher officers. On subordinate officers the strain has also been very great, e.g., in the Public Works Department during the famine. I know that working hours extended up to 9 and 10 o'clock at night upon occasions; indeed, the zeal and spirit of all departments could not have been exceeded. The order to which I alluded is not mine, and I am not sanguine that any suggestion I can make would obtain the reversal of it.

PLAGUE AT HUBLI.

I should like to refer to the case of one municipality, because it stands out as the result of measures of a particular character—I refer to Hubli. Honourable members are aware that at this moment plague is turning its attention to the Southern Division, Hubli and Belgaum; the Belgaum district has never been entirely free; plague at Hubli appeared first of all in what honourable members who know the place will recognise as the railway chawls. An energetic Collector, Mr. Cappel, and an no less energetic medical officer. Surgeon-Major Meyer and Assistant-Surgeon Cardoz were on the spot, and they took immediate precautions for isolating the whole of the population of the chawls. A cordon was drawn round the infected locality and the greatest watchfulness exercised, and by this means plague was kept out of Hubli for five or five months. In this instance the cordon was successful for four or five months. I do not suppose that any one was sanguine enough to suppose that plague would be perpetually kept out of Hubli town, but these five months afforded time to prepare the minds of the people for what would happen for inculcating lessons of extreme importance as regards the necessity of isolation, and for the preparation of hospitals and camps which the municipality did with the greatest promptitude, and other measures which, in the hopes of checking the spread of the disease, were ultimately carried out. Unfortunately a time came, as was the case elsewhere—and although one does not like to look into the future, it is extremely likely will be the case in the future—when, in spite of all the ability and energy with which the measures were characterised, the town was infested with the disease.

BOMBAY PLAGUE COMMITTEE.

Then turning to Bombay, my honourable colleague, Sir Charles Ollivant, has, if I may say so, so well put the case as regards the expenditure, and I need add very little to what he has said. Comments have been made upon what was termed the extravagance of the Committee, and it is said that their accounts have not been kept as they ought to have been kept. I might allude to the remarks of the honourable member who represents the Corporation, but I do not think that comment will give any better solution of the difficulty, so I will make no rejoiner to what I consider the somewhat sharp and unmerited criticism. We are all entitled to our opinion, and I need scarcely say that I do not agree with the honourable member. When the Committee was appointed we were advised by our experts that the essence of the value of all measures was the promptitude with which you could carry them out. No doubt very great expense was occasioned by the construction of segregation camps, some of which did not find any occupants. But you will remember that at the time it was suggested that the safety of the rest of the Presidency, and indeed the rest of India, demanded that we should take extreme precautions that people travelling from the infected city of Bombay should not be free to go wherever they listed. To prevent that we had camps here, there, and elsewhere, and restrictions, as everybody knows, prevailed. But what Government foresaw was this, that probably the time would come when people would say, "It is true you will not let us go out; you impose restrictions, and we are put to great trouble, and therefore you ought to furnish us with some place to go to." My only regret about those camps is that they were not able to build them as early as the month of November.

A TRIBUTE TO SIR J. CAMPBELL.

Well, now a word as to Sir James Campbell. Sir James, as everyone knows, has gone away on long furlough, and it is more than probable that he may not return to this country. Many honourable gentlemen at this table have had a lifelong acquaintance with Sir James Campbell, and you do not need to be told that he is perhaps one of the most modest of public officials that has ever been my lot to meet. If Sir James Campbell has a fault, and who has not, it is that he never would let his left hand know what his right hand was doing. But since his retirement I have forced out by degrees information as to the long hours that he works, and as to the charity and kindliness that he showed in carrying out his duties as chairman of the Plague Committee. For example, late at night, on receiving information that some students had been put by mistake into some segregation camp, he was promptly there to liberate them. He assisted a large number of people with gifts of small sums of money to return to their homes and for other charitable purposes. It was a perfect marvel to me, who watched him day by day that, in the strength carried him through the herculean task imposed upon him. I think it is not too much to say that nothing but his indomitable courage and energy enabled him to get through what seemed the impossible amount of work he performed.

WAS THE PLAGUE COMMITTEE A FAILURE?

Well, returning to the remarks of the Hon. Mr. Metha, he made the sweeping assertion that the Plague Committee had been a failure. The sad acknowledgment has to be made that the measures for stamping out the plague have been failures. But there is one thing upon which I do not think sufficient stress has been laid, and that is while the Bombay Plague Committee did not succeed in stamping out the plague—and I do not suppose that any reasonable man ever thought they would do so after once it had gained a hold—it is my humble opinion that the Committee did manage to control the plague when we remember the circumstances of the population. Our figures are not very exact, but it is estimated that the population, after the exodus from Bombay had taken place early last year, was 4½ lakhs. I am told that, adopting the same basis of calculation, the population of Bombay, after the first epidemic had gone down, and while the Plague Commitee was in charge, was 7 1-2 lakhs. And yet, owing to the exertions of the Committee, the total mortality during the last sepidemic hardly exceeded that of the previous year, when there were three lakhs less people in the city. As I have said, we were advised that promptness was a very necessary precaution in carrying on this war in the free of the enemy, and if there was a body of men in office who fought the enemy with promptness it was the Plague Committee. No doubt the interests of economical administration and rules which ought to be and must be observed in every-day life have to be set aside, and camps and anything else that was recommended had to be very promptly supplied. Everyone will remember that both then and at the first outbreak of plague there were a large number of advisers with remedies of their own. I remember that one gentleman was loud in his protestations that one determined man with a couple of thousand European soldiers would soon drive the plague from Bombay. That gentleman did not possess perspicacity, for I know perfectly well what would have been the result of such a measure as that. I have mentioned one or two officers by name in connection with certain localities, but again this year I must not fail to recognise the zeal and self-denial of all officers concerned in this second year of the visitation. No sacrifice by them has been too great Their only idea has been public duty.

THE FUTURE.

I do not take the same gloomy view of what the future has in store as has been taken by some honourable members here. It is perfectly true that the tale which my honourable colleague had to unfold is not on that we can congratulate him on. But I have great faith in the justice, nay I will say the generosity of the Government of India, and I do look forward to a recognition that a large part of the expenditure that has been incurred must be of an Imperial character. I have been reminded that when the Plague Committee was appointed last year I spoke of the question of suppression of the disease as one of Imperial concern. The reminder was given by the honorable member who desires that the plague arrangements should beleft uncontrolled in the hands of the Municipality. Well, I contend that of this question was an Imperial matter in Feb. 1897, it is more so to-day. So Imperial a matter is it considered by the Secretary of State that he desired that our organisation and arrangements should be submitted to him before we promulgated any orders. There is a political side to the question, and there is a commercial side to the question, and in these respects as well as in others it is a matter of Imperial importance. At the same time the administration of plague measures touches every individual officer in the service of Government. Our duty is clear. We must be careful with our dealings of the people of all sorts and conditions. If we have to cause inconvenience, it must be, as I said on several occasions during the last two years with the utmost sympathy and the utmost consideration, and it is the duty of every plague officer of every grade as much as is possible to "let persuasion do the work of fear."

THE PORT TRUST ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon. Mr. Burke moved the second reading of this Bill. He stated that the changes made in the Bill since it was introduced had been unanimously approved by the members of the Select Committee. They were very few and simple and were of an absolutely non contentious character.

The Bill was read a second time and considered in detail, only one verbal alteration being made.

THE ADULTERATION OF GHEE BILL.

The Hon. Mr. A. S. Moriarty moved the first reading of "the Bill to make better provision in the City of Bombay and elsewhere for preventing the adulteration of ghee and other articles of human food." He traced the history of the movement taken in Bombay in favour of legislation on the lines now proposed, and of the correspondence which had passed between the local Government and the Government of India in respect thereto. The trade in adulterated ghee had continued to flourish and expand, in the absence of effective legislative provisions a check to such adulteration, especially in the interests of the Hindus was of importance much more from a religious than from a commercial point of view. The bill would have the effect of checking adulteration in human food generally and would in particular encourage and protect what he might style the "unctuous rectitude" of the ghee-sellers of Bombay.

The Hon. Mr. Vrijbhukandas Atmaram gave a qualified support to the Bill which was more warmly supported by Messrs. P. M. Mehta and Gokuldas Parekh, but was opposed by the Hon. Mr. Chandavarkar on the ground that it was not desirable to pass a law in the interests of a religious prejudice. The Hon. Mr. James, while admitting that it was possible to go too far in the direction of legislating to meet religious prejudices thought it ought not to go forth from that Council that the Legislature paid no heed to religious prejudices. He also thought the Bill was necessary to protect the public against the filthy practices which the measure was designed to prevent.

The Bill was then read a first time and referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon. Messrs. Moriarty, Vrijbhukandas Atmaram, Chunilal Venilal, Burke and Bhalchandra with instruction to report within one month.

The Hon. Mr. Khare having obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend the Devgad Khote Act, 1880, the Council was adjourned at 4 o'clock *sine die*.

CRICKET.

MUNICIPAL C.C. vs. PARSI GYMKHANA.

A very interesting cricket match was played last Saturday between the above two teams. Both the elevens were well matched, and had time permitted, the victory would have been for the Municipal team. The Parsis having won the toss batted and scored 149 for 8 wickets down, at which they closed their innings. The Municipal team put together 120 runs for 4 wickets down. For the Parsis Messrs. D. D. Kanga, Bulgaumwala and Nalgaumwalas, respectively scored 23 47, and 21, and the Municipal Eleven, Messes. Kaka, Guzdar, and Vakharia did excellent service. The following are the scores:—

PARSI GYMKHANA.

M Sanjana, c and b Chanker	2
K K Kharas, b Chanker	6
D D Kanga, c and b Chanker	23
Chichgar, c and b Chanker	2
Belgaumwala, stumped	42
Nalgaumwala, c and b Chanker	21
Baruchs, c and b Chanker	4
A Chothia, c Vakharia, b Chanker	7
M Dustoor, not out	13
P Dalal, not out	5
H N Vakil, to bat.	
Extras	24
	149

MUNICIPAL C. C.

E Guzdar, b Dastoor	22
Kaka, c Kanga, b Dustoor	29
Chanker, c Kharas, b Dustoor	0
Khullar, c and b Dastoor	11
Vakharia, not out	13
Baruwala, not out	16
Extras	7

MILITARY AND NAVAL NOTES.

There is something to be said for circumlocution and red-tape. The Report of the Committee appointed to consider the Decentralisation of War Office business contains the following:—"If an officer in the branch chiefly concerned were empowered to treat personally with other branches, papers which go to and fro for a fortnight could be settled by a few interviews of ten minutes apiece between officials distant from each other, at the utmost, a few hundred yards." This no doubt is correct provided always that the matter settled viva voce between officers of departments were not subject to the caustic criticism of superior beings within and without Pall Mall; but when each officer of a department has to be extremely careful that the officer of another department has not misunderstood him, or is not likely to suffer from a temporary lapse of memory as to both the words and the intention of the speaker, literæ scriptæ become a necessity; a memorandum soon becomes a minute and a minute is composed with less trouble in the privacy of an officer of a department's own room than in the presence of his colleague elsewhere. "I quite agree with you in principle, but don't you think you had better let me have it in writing, with your reasons, so that there may be no mistake, as I don't quite follow you?" &c., &c., is more likely than not to be the result of nine personal interviews out of ten. Loose drill is in the ascendant, but it has not yet entirely displaced close formations and barrack-square evolutions, and within reasonable limits circumlocution and red-tape are to be treated with adequate respect.

There has been a dispute between the Admiralty and the Exchequer and Audit Department because the former would not send the latter copies of all tenders submitted, including those not accepted. The Committee of Public Accounts, while agreeing that the Admiralty were acting within their statutory rights, make the following recommendation, as calculated to meet the wishes of the Comptroller and Auditor-General on the one hand, and to obviate the risk of undue publicity on the other—viz., "That, upon special application from the Comptroller and Auditor-General in any particular case, the Admiralty should either (a) furnish a statement of the amounts of the several unaccepted tenders (not necessarily giving names); or (b) transmit the unaccepted tenders to the Comptroller and Auditor-General personally, under seal, for his own inspection and return."

It is asserted that the Japanese are taking a further step in the development of torpedo material by having made at Fiume a torpedo of 24 inches diameter. That introduction of the gyroscope, and the consequent greater accuracy of aim, permitting a longer range, seem to have induced this new venture; but if the weapon be actually constructed, the ponderous and unwieldy character of it will cause many difficulties. The intended range is said to be 2,000 yards, and the speed of the torpedo thirty-five knots. The Japanese destroyers building at Chiswick have received the names of Shinonone, Murakumo, Yugiri, and Shiranui; those at Poplar of Ikazuchi, Inazuma, Akebono, and Sazanani; and those at Havre (Normand) of Hayabusa, Kasasagi, Managuru, and Shirataka.

The New Torpedo Nets are now under trial at sea by the ships of the Channel Squadron. The new nets are made up in sections of 25 feet long and 28 feet deep, the weight of each section being 17 1-2 cwt. The section consists of 16,000 meshes, six rings to a mesh, and as these are of harder metal and less in diameter than in the former pattern of net, it is claimed that the torpedo nippers will not be able to damage them. As the squadron's cruise will extend over nearly ten weeks, there should be ample opportunity for thoroughly testing the new arrangement of nets.

The "Berliner Tageblatt" has been giving some interesting particulars of a cyclist ride undertaken last month by sections of the 2nd, 4th, and Fusilier regiments of the Guard, Berlin was the starting place, and Konigsberg the objective point, the distance between the two being about 326 miles. The outward journey was by Frankfort on the Oder, and the return by Schwedt, Angermunde, and Templin, and the excursion occupied six days, the average distance traversed in twenty-four hours being over one hundred miles.

From Paris comes information that Captain Marchand has been placed on the list of next promotions as major. His subordinates are also to be promoted or decorated. M. Gentil, who has been welcomed by the two geographical societies, will like wise, doubtless, receive honours for his expedition to Lake Chad, which is looked on as foreshadowing the connection of Algeria with French Congo. It is also announced that the telegraph to connect the Soudan and Senegal with Dahomey will be completed by the new year, French communication thus becoming independent of the English cables.

The basis of French strategy on the south-eastern frontier is to make the greatest possible use of the natural barrier of the Alps, so that a relatively small force can keep the Italians at bay, thus leaving the mass of the Army free to operate on the eastern frontier. Only two army corps, the 14th and 15th, are devoted to the defence of the south-east, but the men are specially trained for the kind of warfare in which they would be engaged in the event of hostilities. Last year the Alpine manœuvres took place in Savoy. This year they will be held in the Alpes Maritimes on the supposition of an attempted invasion towards Mentone and Nice by the Corniche. A northern force will be established at Tournairet, St. Martin, Vesubie Gordolasque, and Aution, while a southern force will occupy one side of the Aution circle of mountains, holding the valleys of Pral de l'Art, St. Elizabeth, and Bollene. The positions will, therefore, be much the same as actually occurred in the campaigns of 1747 and 1793, but the manœuvres and plans will be much modified on account of the many and powerful fortifications now in existence. Though it is a principle of modern warfare that fortifications have only a relative importance, yet it must be recognised that in mountainous districts like the Alps, where there are many commanding positions, fortifications armed with powerful artillery will be able to keep an invader in check for a long time.

The Russian military authorities have set aside a sum of 900 roubles per annum for the encouragement of fencing among the officers of the St. Petersburg military district. Fencing tourneys are to be held twice a year in the St. Petersburg School of Arms, and the money is to be distributed in prizes in the shape of swords of honour. The grant will be extended to other districts in due course, it being felt that everything it is possible to do ought to be done to encourage skill at arms among the officers of the Army.

The United States Senate Committee on Military Affairs, by providing for the filling of the rank of Lieutenant-General by appointment by the President, has performed a necessary reform in the Army personnel. It is an open secret that the grade would have been revived long ago had it not been that the first man to benefit by it would be Major-General Miles. Many times the question has been brought up, but each time the opposition to him has been sufficient to stop final action. The fact that the grade has always been filled by a West Point man, and that General Miles entered the Army as a volunteer during the Civil War and does not bear the hall-mark of that institution, has generally been considered sufficient cause for postponing its revival.

No fewer than ten regiments of the Austrian Army celebrate important anniversaries this year. These are the 28th, 48th, 60th, 61st, and 62nd Infantry, the Grand Duke Nicholas Dragoons, the Radetzky, Wilhelm II., and the Count Uexkull Hussars, and the Nicholas II. Lancers. The 28th celebrates its bicentenary, the Lancers its jubilee, and each of the others its centenary. The 61st is distinguished for its prowess at Marcarolo, when a battalion engaged an entire division under Souls for hours. At Koniggratz it lost thirty-three officers and 1,300 men, and showed that it knew how to die if it did not know how to win. The Emperor William's Hussars are those who in 1800 ascended Mont Cenis and took more than 900 French soldiers prisoners. At Wagram they took eight French cannon, for which they won the privilege of blowing the Wagram fanfare. The 60th has the distinction of having forced half a brigade to surrender at Stockach. The Queen of Saxony is the "fahnen-mutter" (flag-mother) of this regiment, and a work dealing with its martial exploits has just been dedicated to Her Majesty. It is understood that the Emperor of Russia will be represented at the jubilee of his lancers and present the regiment with his portrait.

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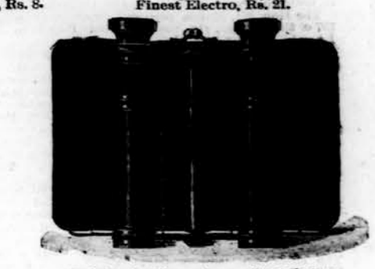

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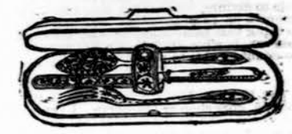

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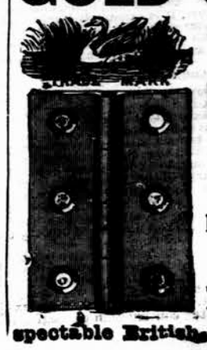

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